

Italian prime minister starts Mideast tour

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti arrived Saturday in Saudi Arabia at the start of a Middle East tour to promote the Arab-Israeli peace process. Andreotti is scheduled to meet with King Fahd during his overnight stay. He also is scheduled to visit Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Syria and Libya. Defence Minister Prince Sultan, the third ranking man in the kingdom, met Andreotti on arrival along with other government officials. The kingdom's prime minister is Fahd. Dhahran is the oil-centre of Saudi Arabia. It served as the main assembly point for the U.S.-led coalition forces against Iraq. Italy contributed to the allied forces, basing air force units in the UAE and deploying warships in the region. Italian minisweepers are helping clear hundreds of explosives sown by Iraq off Kuwait. Diplomatic sources said that Andreotti will also meet with the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council who are gathering in Dhahran for a meeting Sunday to discuss post-Gulf war security arrangements.

Jordan Times

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Meguid: Arabs will not give up inch of territories

CAIRO (R) — Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid said Saturday Arabs would not give up a single inch of Israeli-occupied land in any Middle East settlement. Commenting on remarks by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that Israel must never abandon even a clod of soil, Abdul Meguid told reporters: "Arabs will not abandon one inch of their occupied lands." The United States has criticised Israel's continued settlement of Jews in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. But Israel has so far resisted U.S. efforts to obtain a Middle East solution based on a land-for-peace formula. Abdul Meguid, who took over as the league secretary-general last month, said the Cairo-based pan-Arab organisation backed current peace efforts "to meet the legitimate demands of the Palestinian people, first and foremost an Israeli withdrawal."

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Palestinians kill 'collaborator'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinian activists Saturday shot dead a woman suspected of collaborating with Israel in the Rafah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources said. Fatma Shaat, 45, was shot in the head by members of the Black Panther group, which is associated with the Palestine Liberation Organisation's mainstream Fatah group, they added. The attack was unusual because the militants were not masked, they said. The sources said that the attackers fled when Israeli soldiers entered the camp but that hundreds of stone-throwing residents then clashed with the soldiers. The soldiers used live ammunition to disperse the demonstrators. Ten people were arrested. No one was injured.

Bush orders wheat for the poor

WEST POINT, New York (AP) — President George Bush Saturday ordered 300,000 metric tonnes of surplus U.S. wheat to be put aside for international relief efforts. Bush said that the grain would be used to meet relief needs in developing countries of the Middle East, Africa and Asia. "The wheat will be used to provide urgent humanitarian relief to the peoples in the Middle East, Africa and Asia who are suffering widespread hunger and malnutrition," Bush said in a statement.

Agnelli, Andreotti senators-for-life

ROME (R) — Giovanni Agnelli, the chairman of the Fiat auto company, and seven-time premier Giulio Andreotti were named senators-for-life Saturday. President Francesco Cossiga also selected for the honour Francesco de Martino, 34, a socialist leader and former senator, and Paolo Emilio Taviani, 78, a Christian Democrat who during World War II led the resistance in the region around Genoa. Italian presidents are allowed to nominate as life-long senators five distinguished citizens. There are 324 senators in the Italian parliament.

Militants kill Egyptian campaigner

CAIRO (R) — Three Muslim militants stabbed to death two Christian brothers because one of them campaigned for birth control, Egyptian Interior Minister Mohammed Abdul Halim Mousa said Saturday. The militants, armed with knives, attacked Zakir Kamel Abdul Sayed, 33, and his brother Maher, 36, on Thursday night near a village in the southern province of Qena. They were the first reported killings of a sectarian nature in mainly Muslim Egypt since clashes in 1988 between police and Muslim fundamentalists who attacked property owned by members of Egypt's six-million strong Christian Coptic community. One of the militants was arrested after being wounded by police gunfire when he resisted them. Police have launched a manhunt for the other two. Mousa said the pharmacist, who was actively involved in a birth-control campaign, had received a warning from the militants 20 days before he was killed.

Rushdie supporters meet Hurd

LONDON (AP) — Friends of author Salman Rushdie have accused Britain of condoning terrorism by restoring diplomatic links with Iran. Rushdie has been in hiding since Feb. 14, 1989, when the late Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini called on Muslims to kill the author because his book "Satanic Verses" allegedly blasphemed Islam. "The fact that Mr. Rushdie remains in hiding under serious threat to his life amounts to an act of international terrorism. The British government, by refusing to publicly condemn these attempts on Mr. Rushdie's life, while continuing to build relations with Iran, appears to condone such terrorism," the International Committee for the Defence of Salman Rushdie and his publishers said in a statement.

'Only Mideast peace can end the arms race'

Jordan: Bush initiative 'step in right direction,' but must deal with Israel's nuclear arsenal

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Jordan described U.S. President George Bush's initiative on Middle East arms control as a "step in the right direction" but cautioned that it has to be followed by a "real effort to deal with Israel's large arsenal of nuclear and other weapons on the same basis and with the same standard."

The spokesman, quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, also questioned the spirit of Bush's plan in light of the firm backing to

Israel given by U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney two days after the president unveiled his proposals. He said, however, Bush's plan was in line with the Kingdom's constant calls for clearing the region of all weapons of mass destruction — nuclear, biological or chemical. He said the plan, announced on Wednesday, would also help countries in the region redirect their huge military spending to

wards development. "It is a step in the right direction but should be completed by a sincere effort to deal with Israel's huge nuclear arsenal."

The plan would still permit regional nations to acquire the conventional arms they need to defend themselves. The spokesman repeated Jordan's calls for continued efforts to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict "to end tension in the region and remove any pretexts for the arms race."

Within 24 hours of the president's proposal in Colorado, De-

fence Secretary Cheney was in Israel agreeing to help the Israeli finance development of the Arrow anti-aircraft missile and providing the Jewish state with F-15 jet fighters. The White House defended its policy and said agreement with Israel to provide fighters and to join in development of the Arrow missile was a follow-up on the Patriot missile. This, the Americans said, was "indeed consistent with our desire for stability in the region," and therefore does not undermine the Bush arms control proposal for the region

announced one day earlier. The president's plan, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said, "contained measures that are based on assuring stability in the Middle East, and we believe that the weapons systems that Secretary Cheney is talking about are indeed consistent with our desire for stability in the region."

In Cairo analysts commenting on the Bush initiative said Arabs could not accept proposals that appeared to bolster Israeli milit-

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Bush sends message to Assad

LISBON (R) — Syria's foreign minister said on Saturday that he hoped a letter from U.S. President George Bush to Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad would spur progress towards peace in the Middle East.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker handed the letter to Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharara during two hours of hastily arranged talks in the Portuguese capital. Neither Baker nor Sharara would reveal its contents. Baker told reporters it was a very detailed letter but he insisted it did not contain an invitation to a peace conference.

Sharara, standing alongside Baker, said: "Of course I will convey this letter to President Assad and we will continue our contacts." Asked if he thought the message would move the peace process forward, the Syrian minister said: "I hope so."

Baker, who earlier had talks with his Soviet opposite number Alexander Bessmertnykh, arranged his meeting with Sharara only on Thursday, inviting the Syrian minister to join him in Lisbon.

The late addition to Baker's programme raised speculation of a surprise development in Middle East peace moves, but neither Baker nor Sharara would provide details of their talks.

Sharara said it had been worth while for him to meet Baker in Lisbon and described their encounter as satisfactory.

"There has been minor progress. Any movement is welcome," Sharara told reporters before he himself had talks with Bessmertnykh.

The United States considers Syria to be the key to the Middle East peace conference that Washington is trying to put together with Moscow's help.

When Baker met Sharara in

Nakayama meets Palestinians

Japan wants end to Israeli settlement

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama ended a three-day visit to Israel on Saturday, telling its government Jewish settlement in the occupied Arab territories should end.

"Japan feels that Israeli settlements in the occupied areas breed discontent on the part of the Arabs," Nakayama said at Tel Aviv airport before leaving for Frankfurt.

Nakayama's spokesman, Sadaaki Numata, told reporters: "The foreign minister told his Israeli hosts that he hoped the settlements would be halted."

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has said the continuing Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip is the biggest obstacle to Middle East peace talks.

During his visit, Nakayama also told the Israeli government it should implement U.N. resolutions calling on it to exchange the occupied land for peace.

In addition to criticising its policies on the occupied territories, Nakayama stopped short of giving Israel what it wanted on the issue of Japanese companies' complying with the Arab economic boycott of the Jewish state.

Israel would like the Japanese government to make a public statement advising companies to disregard the boycott.

Numata told a news conference on Friday: "Since the boycott does obstruct free international exchanges, economic exchanges, we feel that it is undesirable."

But he added: "We are not saying as a government we would institute legislative measures to end the boycott."

The Japanese attitude brought a strong reaction from Israel's ambassador to Tokyo, Nahum Eshkol, who was at the airport to see Nakayama off.

"They could do much more to make their attitude against the boycott public," Eshkol said. Earlier in the day Nakayama visited a West Bank refugee camp and pledged more economic and political support for the Palestinians.

Palestinian leaders, however, opposed help in resettling refugees without a comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem. Nakayama met with 11 Palestinian leaders in occupied Arab East Jerusalem on Saturday for one hour before he ended his three-day visit to Israel.

On Friday, Nakayama told Israeli leaders that his country wants to play a more active role in the Middle East. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir suggested that Japan could begin by paying millions of dollars to help resettle Palestinian refugees in the occupied lands.

About 400,000 Palestinians live in 28 squalid refugee camps. The Palestinians were displaced by the Israelis in the 1948 Middle East war.

"We ask Japan to play an effective role for solving the Palestinian problem through its (financial) aid and in the United Nations," said PLO supporter Radwan Abu Ayash after meeting with Nakayama.

The Palestinians also told Nakayama of the suffering they have endured due to the Israeli



Taro Nakayama crackdown on their uprising, now in its 42nd month.

Earlier, Nakayama visited this shanty camp of Dheisheh housing some 8,000 refugees 10 kilometres south of Jerusalem to dedicate a community centre built with a \$250,000 donation from Japan.

In a welcoming ceremony, a girls' choir sang nationalist songs. Nearby, a young boy waved the outlawed Palestinian flag and residents flashed the V sign.

"From what I saw here," Nakayama said, "Japan will continue offering aid to the Palestinians to raise their standard of living." Nakayama's remarks were translated into Arabic.

The two-story community centre will house a kindergarten and serve as a workshop where women can learn child care and a trade.

Israelis claim shooting guerrilla

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli soldiers Saturday shot dead an armed guerrilla who crossed from Jordan, but a second escaped, the military command said.

It said the guerrillas were trying to infiltrate into an army fort along the Jordan River.

The incident occurred near the Jewish settlement of Mebela, 70 kilometres northeast of Jerusalem. One Israeli soldier was slightly wounded from "friendly" fire during the search for the infiltrators, the army said.

Before dawn Saturday, Israeli soldiers spotted two guerrillas who had succeeded in breaching the fence to the fort, an army statement said.

Both men were carrying Soviet-designed Klachnikov assault rifles. The dead guerrilla also had hand grenades, the army said.

It was not immediately clear to which organisation the men belonged. The army said the dead guerrilla had been carrying a Koran, indicating that he may have belonged to the Hamas, or zeal, movement.

(Continued on page 3)

Cheney, Egyptians discuss regional security, arms control

ISMAILIYA, Egypt (Agencies) — U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney conferred with Egyptian leaders Saturday on regional security and arms control.

But despite talk of arms control, Cheney's Egyptian counterparts indicated that his arsenal needs to be modernised to replace outdated 1960s-era Soviet-style weapons with advanced U.S. weapons. Cheney responded with a comment that the United States wants a strong and secure Egypt.

Cheney arrived Friday from Israel where he discussed the same subjects as well as U.S.-Israeli security cooperation.

In occupied Jerusalem, he told reporters the United States and Israel are stockpiling military equipment in the Jewish state for use in future emergencies. We said the United States wants a similar agreement with Arab nations in the Gulf.

Saturday's Egyptian newspapers gave front-page prominence to Cheney's announcement on the arms stockpiling. But neither they nor government officials commented.

Cheney met for almost an hour Saturday morning in Cairo with Defence Minister Lt. Gen. Hussein Tantawi. They were driven 110 kilometres to Ismailiya for talks and a working lunch with President Hosni Mubarak in a guest house overlooking the Suez Canal.

A defence ministry statement said Tantawi brought up the successful use of advanced U.S. weapons in the Gulf war to plead for modernisation of the Egyptian arsenal with U.S. help.

The release said the U.S. weapons' performance "underlined the need to replace the old, East-bloc arms dating back to the 1960s, which represent about 60 per cent of the Egyptian armed

forces' equipment." It gave no details of the types of U.S. weapons Tantawi wanted to acquire.

In response, the statement quoted Cheney as saying, "we are eager to ensure the security of Egypt... and we want Egypt to have strong forces capable of repelling aggression whenever necessary."

The United States has supplied Egypt with \$1.3 billion worth of arms annually in recent years. These included 120 F-16 warplanes.

On the way to Cairo from Jerusalem, Cheney told reporters on his plane that he would discuss with Egyptian leaders regional security and President George Bush's Middle East arms-control initiative.

Cheney said Egyptian troops that joined a U.S.-led military

pathy for the defence attorneys questioning the investigation, repeatedly asking why they were pursuing the source. "The future of 24 people I am defending is at stake," Al Saif said at one point.

Six defendants appeared before the judge before the court took a mid-morning recess. The prosecution mounted the most serious cases against a Kuwaiti woman, 35-year-old Ibtisam Al Dukhaili. It presented the judge with half a dozen copies of the newspaper Al Nida in which her picture appeared and said she had tried to force other Kuwaitis to join.

The woman said when the case first went to trial May 24 that she had worked at the paper out of

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'Secret' witness in Kuwait trials

Prosecution demands death penalty for 24 media workers

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — Prosecution on Saturday called for the maximum sentence, the death penalty, against 24 newspaper workers ranging from writers to janitors accused of spreading Iraqi propaganda.

Defence attorneys denied the lack of concrete evidence and said the fear of Iraqi occupation forced the accused to take minor roles at the daily paper.

It was not clear if the judges would issue verdicts Saturday. The defence lawyers clashed repeatedly with the first prosecution witness brought to court in the 2-week-old trials.

The police captain kept referring to a secret witness who provided most of the testimony for the charges against the defendants, most of them Palestinians. "It's just not enough. It's all

based on a secret source," said attorney Mohammad Al Enazy, defending 10 of the accused. Human rights organisations monitoring the trial were also disturbed by the secret testimony.

"That's pathetic. It's not a trial. Two weeks and that's all they come up with?" said Kenneth Roth of the New York-based Human Rights Watch.

The acrimony reached the point where the captain demanded an apology from defence attorney Emad Al Saif for muttering "secret witness, secret witness."

"He's making fun of me," the captain told judge Mohammad Ben Naji, presiding over the panel of three civilian and two military judges in the martial law court.

The judges showed little sym-

Superpowers agree to reduce Europe's conventional weapons

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — The United States and the Soviet Union on Saturday resolved their differences on a treaty to reduce non-nuclear weapons in Europe, setting the stage for re-energised nuclear arms talks and a superpower summit.

U.S. President George Bush, heralding the accord in a speech in the United States, described it as "clearing the way for an important step toward a superpower summit" which has been delayed since February.

American Secretary of State James Baker, with Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh at his side, said the two countries will resume work immediately on a "much more intensive basis than before" to settle the remaining technical issues holding up agreement on a treaty to slash long-range nuclear weapons by some 30 per cent.

"We would like to see a summit in Moscow that would result in the signing of a strategic arms treaty," Baker said.

Bessmertnykh, emphasising Soviet interest in bringing presidents Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev together again, said he and Baker discussed "the possibility of having a summit at the earliest possible date." But no date was set.

Baker said the two men had settled the final sticking points that have held up the ratification of the conventional arms treaty since its signing by 22 nations in Paris last November.

"We have an agreement in principle that will resolve those issues," the secretary of state told reporters, adding the settlement will now be submitted to the other 20 countries, which are expected to approve it.

The treaty requires the Soviets and their former Warsaw Pact allies to destroy tens of thousands

of tanks, armoured personnel carriers and artillery pieces and sets limits on conventional forces from the Atlantic to the Urals. Experts agree it means no European country will retain the ability to launch a non-nuclear surprise attack against a neighbour.

Baker said the agreement "maintains the full integrity and credibility" of the Paris document but declined to say how the differences were resolved.

The United States had accused the Soviets of going back on their word, trying to escape the treaty's ceilings by transferring some equipment to coastal defence units and contending ground forces assigned to naval units were exempt from the accord.

The final work on the conventional forces in Europe treaty means the two sides can resume intensive negotiations on the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START). Those talks in Geneva have been proceeding, settling minor issues, but the United States had made clear it would not devote the high-level attention necessary to resolve major disputes until the conventional weapons treaty was settled.

Baker told reporters in Lisbon he could not say whether the superpowers could still meet their goal of holding a Moscow summit before the end of June.

The last remaining issue on CFE had been whether 1,107 tanks and other pieces of equipment assigned to Soviet naval infantry units would be counted under the limits established by the treaty.

A senior U.S. official, asking no to be identified, said part of that dispute was resolved when the Soviets agreed to convert some armoured personnel carriers in a way that reduces their capacity for transporting personnel. He did not elaborate.

Rafsanjani calls for hostages-prisoners deal, says U.S. wants docile Iraqi leader

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani on Saturday linked the fate of Western hostages in Lebanon with the release of 400-500 Arabs detained by Israel.

In an interview published in the radical Tehran daily Jomhuri Islami, Rafsanjani said Iran was working to accomplish such a swap.

Iran has arranged the release of Western hostages in the past and has been calling for a goodwill gesture, such as the release of prisoners held by Israel, to speed up the process.

There are 13 Westerners missing in Lebanon, most believed held by pro-Israeli militants linked to the Shiite Muslim Hizbollah, or Party of God.

Rafsanjani's remarks come amid statements from Hizbollah and a Palestinian group that they are prepared to negotiate on prisoner exchange with Israel.

In the interview, a copy of which was obtained by the Associated Press in Nicosia, Rafsanjani was asked about a possible Iranian role in freeing the Westerners.

He acknowledged that "we have influence in Lebanon... sometimes they listen to what we say."

He said, however, that Iran could not respond to Western calls that it intervene for purely humanitarian reasons.

"The Lebanese do not accept this from us," the president said. "They, too, have humanitarian problems. They say they have 400-500 prisoners of war in Israel. If it's a question of humanitarianism, they, too, must release their prisoners of war."

He said Iran was "helping so that, if possible, the swap will take place."

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Ethiopian rebel leader pledges reconciliation

ADDIS ABABA (R) — The leader of rebels who captured Addis Ababa this week arrived in the Ethiopian capital on Saturday and pledged there would be no reprisal killings against members of the toppled government.

"We are not going for vendettas... we are not going for kangaroo courts," Meles Zenawi, 36-year-old leader of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), told a meeting of foreign ambassadors.

Shortly after arriving via an undisclosed route from London, where he led peace talks with the now-outsted government of Mengistu Haile Mariam, Meles said the new leadership would not repeat the mistakes of the Marxist military strongman and have a narrow clique dominating power.

"We are not going to repeat

this blunder... we are not excluding any section of the population at all from a transitional government," said Meles, whose group has said it will talk with other groups by July on setting up a broad-based transitional government.

At his first public appearance in the captured capital Meles, wearing a sober business suit, impressed his audience with his firm command of English and apparent determination to solve the intimidating array of problems facing impoverished, war-racked Ethiopia.

He said establishment of law and order in Addis Ababa and elsewhere in the country was the EPRDF's priority in order to restart famine relief operations

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Iraq to pay maximum of 30 per cent of oil profits for damages

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iraq may have to pay up to 30 per cent of its future oil revenues to compensate victims of its invasion of Kuwait but the ban on oil exports is not likely to be lifted in the near future.

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar announced Friday that Iraq have to pay no more than 30 per cent of its oil revenues, which he estimated would still leave Baghdad with enough money to service its foreign debt, feed its people and rebuild its devastated economy.

The actual percentage Iraq will pay be set later by the U.N. Compensation Commission's governing council, made up of all 15 states of the Security Council.

A European economic expert said he thought this council would set the initial rate lower than 30 per cent because the secretary general's estimates were based on 1993 projections.

"There is no point in trying to bleed Iraq dry if there is nothing coming out of the pipeline," he said.

Under a Security Council resolution adopted on April 3 which set terms for a ceasefire in the Gulf war, the secretary general was to set a ceiling on Iraqi war damage payments from sales of its oil. The resolution based the reparations on total revenues, not profits.

Iraqi U.N. Ambassador Abdul Amir Al Anbari told Reuters, "We think it is an impossible percentage to implement."

He cited the time it would take to repair Iraq's war-damaged oil industry, the low price of oil, the damaging effects of sanctions still in force against his country and the need to service debts to foreign banks and governments.

"I wonder how Iraq will be able to meet its basic needs such as food and medicine," he said.

Even after Iraq's oil industry began functioning again it would produce only about 700,000 barrels a day in the first year of operation, Al Anbari said, describing the anticipated 30 per cent figure for reparations as "unrealistic."

The task of settling damages will be daunting and include Kuwait's staggering losses, estimated at about \$60 billion, Saudi Arabia costs for cleaning up pollution in the Gulf and the claims of thousands of workers who fled Kuwait after the invasion.

Iraq has asked for a five-year moratorium on paying reparations, a request ignored by the Security Council.

There is no sign that the United States, backed by Britain, is willing to let any oil flow out of Iraq as long as President Saddam Hussein is in power.

One U.S. official told Reuters he expected that Iraq might be able to sell a limited amount of oil if it showed desperate humanitarian need but at the moment the embargo was still being used as pressure on President Saddam Hussein.

Baghdad has asked to sell one billion dollars' worth of oil for food and other goods but the United States and its allies would

like Baghdad to use other resources first such as currency or gold supplies it believed Iraq still has.

The secretary general spelled out his logic at arriving at a 30 per cent ceiling. He said Iraq needed about \$8 billion in civilian imports in 1991 and needed to service an internal debt, which was about \$42 billion.

However, the statement said the exact figure for Iraq's foreign debt could only be ascertained after discussions between Iraq and its creditors. The Soviet Union, France and Germany are said to be the leading creditors.

Iraq's oil exports were expected to reach about \$21 billion by 1993, the statement said. Imports were expected to absorb about 48 per cent of export earnings and debt servicing should be about 22 per cent, it added.

Consequently, Perez de Cuellar said he felt the compensation paid by Iraq should not be higher than 30 per cent of the annual value of oil exports.

Algerian poll campaign opens in uncertainty over Islamic role

ALGIERS (R) — Campaigning for Algeria's first multiparty parliamentary poll in 29 years opened Saturday, dominated by uncertainty whether fundamentalists would take part or pursue demands on the streets for an Islamic state.

Candidates from the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) started wooing voters in their constituencies. But the main opposition Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) left in doubt whether it would take part in the general election.

The FLN and FIS are front-runners in the June 27 elections which will end one-party rule in force since independence from France.

Some 5,000 candidates, from 39 parties, with 576 independents, are competing for 542 seats. A second round of voting will be held for front runners on July 18.

Thousands of FIS supporters, who marched through Algiers Friday, are challenging the FLN over the future stand of this country of 28 million people, with an estimated 15 million voters.

On Saturday there was little evidence of campaign fever in the capital which for the past week

has echoed to Islamic slogans chanted by striking FIS marchers.

The independent newspaper Al Watan proclaimed the start of campaigning with: "Green light in a tense climate." The FLN paper Al Moudjahid simply signalled: "Go."

FIS militants are demanding a fundamentalist Islamic state, challenging the government's platform of democracy and continued economic reforms.

FLN political bureau member Karim Younes told Reuters his party's candidates, competing for all seats, started campaigning Saturday.

Party posters of a young girl symbolising the future, giving the "V" for victory sign and saying "I am the FLN" were being distributed throughout Algeria.

The party rallying cry was for all Algerians to use their vote to find answers to the crises facing the country, he said.

The fundamentalist FIS, led by Abassi Madani, has dominated the pre-campaign days after calling an indefinite general strike last Saturday to demand changes in election laws which it said favoured the FLN.

It also demanded presidential

elections be held on the same day as the parliamentary poll.

The FIS has registered candidates in 526 constituencies but at Friday prayers, attended by an estimated 50,000 people, FIS leaders ignored their earlier demands to amend the voting and focused on calls for an Islamic state.

Deputy leader Ali Belhadj told the crowd: "After seven days of strike, this has shown the whole people want an Islamic state. The strike has shown the Islamic breeze which is blowing through the country."

On Saturday, returning to the strikers' original claims, Madani maintained his question mark over whether the FIS would take part in the elections.

"We are on general strike, politically and in the work place," he told Reuters. "The election campaign makes no sense."

He said FIS leaders would use television and radio time allocated on the basis of numbers of candidates to explain their position to their supporters.

"Our participation in the elections depends on the results of the strike," he said, referring to any lack of answer so far from the

government on FIS demands.

"The strike will continue and will be extended and escalated."

The more moderate Islamic party Hamas, putting up 366 candidates, on Saturday was distributing posters with the slogan: "Islam is the answer."

Hamas, led by Mahfoud Nahmah, plans to make maximum use of party political TV broadcasts, an official said.

"In three days, we are sending 40 caravans throughout the country to hold meetings in each constituency where we are competing," a Hamas official said.

Hamas wants an Islamic state within a democratic framework.

Two main Berber parties tying for seats said Saturday their campaigns had already started.

The Socialist Forces Front, led by independence war hero Hocine Ait Ahmed, with candidates in 278 areas, announced its slogan as "the forces of the future."

Yemen says U.S. arms control proposals must include Israel

SANAA (R) — Yemen Saturday welcomed a U.S. plan for arms control in the Middle East but said to be acceptable it must include Israel.

Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani was commenting on President George Bush's proposals to curb the spread of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and restrict conventional forces to a defensive role.

"If we can guarantee that Israel will not possess any arms of mass destruction, then we have no objection to cooperate in this respect. This is something that deserves support and a blessing," Iryani told Reuters.

"Luckily, Yemen has nothing of the sort to be disarmed of. Arab countries which have weapons do so out of fear from Israel," he said.

"Should Israel no longer possess these weapons, then most Arab leaders will welcome the (U.S.) move."

"However, it is significant that very important negotiations are

underway between Israel and the U.S. on an anti-missile defence network," Iryani said.

"All peace-loving countries in the Middle East have welcomed the American initiative, while the only rejection comes out of Israel."

Iryani was referring to remarks made in Jerusalem by U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney Thursday that his country was giving Israel a 10 frontline fighter aircraft and paying 72 per cent of the cost of Israel's Arrow anti-missile programme.

The London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies estimates that Israel has 100 nuclear warheads.

In Damascus, Friday, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaz said that U.S. President George Bush's Middle East arms control plan would apparently boost Israel's military superiority.

Sharaz said in a statement: "Syria is still studying U.S. ideas on arms control in the Middle East although it seemed from the

first reading that they would lead, if implemented, to the promotion of Israel's military supremacy."

Bush Wednesday announced a package aimed at stopping the spread of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons in the Middle East and restricting conventional forces to a defensive role.

In the first official Syrian reaction, Sharaz said the proposals would "inflict major harm on Arab interests and would pose big dangers to Arab security in the long term."

He said that Israel "produces in its factories all types of weapons, either conventional or mass destruction weapons, while Arabs do not have such capabilities."

Sharaz said attention should be paid to Israel's present efforts to import, store and develop weapons.

Sharaz said the arms control proposals should be put forward at a time of peace and not while Israel continued to occupy Arab territory.

Saudis welcome Palestinian pilgrims

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Saudi Arabia issued a welcoming statement Saturday for Palestinian pilgrims to the annual Haj whether they travel through Jordan or Egypt.

The statement followed reports from Amman that the kingdom had changed the practice of allowing Arabs living in the Arab territories occupied since 1948 to travel through Jordan en route to Mecca, insisting they use Egypt instead.

The Saudi statement was attributed to a responsible official source, which is the term for a government spokesman.

"There has been no change in the practice of previous years concerning the arrival of pilgrims from occupied Palestinian territories to the kingdom," the statement said.

It added: "The situation remains as is and the kingdom welcomes them and all who hail to the holy lands through legitimate routes, whether the Palestinian pilgrims come from Jordan or from Egypt."

Jordanian reports said the Saudi decision was reversed following protests from Amman which saw the measure had "political inclinations."

Saudi-Jordan relations have been strained since the Gulf crisis. Jordan siding with Iraq opposed the use of Saudi-based foreign force to drive Iraq out of Kuwait. Egypt was part of the multi-national force that fought Iraq.

Saudi Arabia harbours Islam's holiest shrines at Mecca and Medina to which some 2 million Muslims from around the world flock for the annual Haj or pilgrimage. The Haj rituals climax this year around June 23.

The traditional Haj route for Palestinians from Israel has been through Jordan, which administers religious affairs in the occupied territories lost during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

About 1,460 Arabs from Arab lands occupied since 1948 have registered for the haj and also a similar number from the occupied territories also plan to make the trip.

The number of Jordanians and Palestinians registered for this year's Haj — a must for all able-bodied Muslims once a lifetime — is less than half last year's.

U.N. decides to reopen offices in Lebanon

BEIRUT (AP) — The United Nations has decided to reopen all the offices it operated in Lebanon before outbreak of the civil war in 1975, a U.N. official announced Saturday.

The announcement was made by Mohammed Abdallah Nour, an assistant to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Nour, who heads the regional Bureau for the Arab States and Europe at U.N. headquarters in New York, did not set a date for reopening the offices.

"All the U.N. offices that had been based in Beirut would be reopened very soon," Nour said in a statement broadcast by Beirut radio stations. He did not elaborate on the remark.

Nour arrived Wednesday on a week-long visit to set the stage for

a visit to Beirut by Perez de Cuellar.

On Friday, Nour informed Minister Fares Boueiz of Perez de Cuellar's intention to visit Lebanon but refused to disclose its date to reporters.

Since the civil war broke out in 1975, the United Nations has closed the Beirut offices of four of its main agencies. These are the Economic Commission for Western Asia, UNESCO, the International Labour Organisation and the World Health Organisation.

The move to reactivate the offices follows the spread of state authority over a 2,590-square-kilometre militia-free strip of Lebanon covering Beirut and the hinterland overlooking the capital.

Libya criticised French stand on Syrian role in Lebanon

NICOSIA (R) — Libya said Saturday that French plans to demand a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon represented an unwarranted intervention in Arab affairs and would not help France's ties with the Arab World.

"These remarks seem strange and unrealistic," the Libyan News Agency IANA quoted a foreign ministry source as saying.

"They do not serve, Franco-Arab ties and will reflect on Arab-European rapprochement, in addition to being a flagrant intervention in Syrian-Lebanese and Arab affairs in general."

France said Wednesday it would demand that Syria pull its troops out of Lebanon and clear the way for general and free elections in the country plagued

by civil war since 1975.

The source said a Lebanese-Syrian treaty, concluded last month and calling for close political, security, military, economic and cultural cooperation between the two neighbours, was a matter of a state's sovereignty.

"No party has the right to interfere with it. It is also a step toward Arab unity and thus any interference is tantamount to an intervention in Arab affairs," the source said.

"We are surprised that French officials talk about Syrian troops in Lebanon and ignore the real reason for their presence. Is it not more proper for them to call for the withdrawal of Zionist enemy forces occupying South Lebanon?"

Flight ban forced Iraq to hire Poles to spray crops

ROME (R) — Allied flight restrictions forced Iraq to recruit Polish civilian pilots to spray crops in the occupied north of the country, a U.N. organisation said Friday.

Baghdad has wanted to use its own military pilots as crop-dusters near the northern city of Mosul but the plan was opposed by the allies, said a spokesman for the Rome-based Food and

Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The U.S.-led allies have set up a so-called safe haven for Kurdish refugees in northern Iraq and restricted Iraqi flights north of the 36th parallel.

Iraq arranged to have the Polish manufacturers of its Mi-2 helicopters send six Polish civilian pilots to spray 94,000 hectares (230,000 acres) of wheat and barley, the spokesman said.

Lebanese papers print letter to kidnappers of Cicippio

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Five Beirut newspapers Saturday published a letter to the kidnappers of American hostage Joseph Cicippio pleading for his release to enable him to see his dying sister.

The letter, signed by the Pennsylvania doctors and nurses attending Cicippio's sister, Helen Fazio, said she was "gravely ill with cancer. She has been undergoing monthly chemotherapy treatment for two years."

Al Nahar, the nation's leading daily, published an Arabic language translation of the letter and L'Orient-Le Jour published it in French.

"She would often share her dream that seeing Joseph come home was part of her encouragement to continue her battle against cancer and deal with its devastating side effects," the letter said.

The letter said that Mrs. Fazio recently "needed to be hospitalised after receiving experimental chemotherapy for one month. She is tired and exhausted. Her energy and will to live are minimal."

The medical staff at the Sacred Heart Hospital in Norristown, Pennsylvania, noted that Mrs. Fazio "has a very limited time to see her dream come true: 'Joseph's release and safe re-

turn."

"Please grant a dying woman her final wish," the letter pleaded with the kidnappers.

Cicippio's other sister, Rose, died in December 1986 after he was kidnapped.

Cicippio, 60, of Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, acting comptroller at the American University of Beirut, was kidnapped Sept. 12, 1986.

The Pro-Iranian Revolutionary Justice Organisation has claimed to hold him.

Releasing Cicippio, the letter said, would give Mrs. Fazio "the encouragement to live until the day she would see her brother and give him the hug she has dreamed of giving him for so long."

The letter followed signals in the Middle East about a possible swap of Shi'ite Muslim prisoners held by Israel for Israeli servicemen missing in Lebanon, a key factor that could facilitate the release of the Western hostages.

The 13 missing Westerners in Lebanon, including six Americans, are believed held mainly by pro-Iranian Shi'ite factions.

Also missing are four Britons, two Germans and an Italian. The conservative newspaper Al Dhiyar said Saturday an undisclosed "number of American and

European officials are expected in Lebanon to follow up the hostage issue."

The newspaper, which does not have a record of accurate reporting on the issue of the hostages, said: "High-level contacts have been under way between Arab capitals and Lebanon to ensure cooperation and coordination in this issue." It did not elaborate.

The pro-Iranian Hezbollah, or party of God, has said it was prepared to swap two Israeli servicemen it holds for Shi'ite and Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

Israel has said it also was willing to get involved in a swap but stressed that the exchange should include its seven missing servicemen and noted that jailed Palestinians from the Israeli-occupied territories would not be part of the tradeoff.

Hostage-holders, believed linked to Hezbollah, have demanded the release of the Shi'ite detainees saying the move would be an "encouraging prelude" for releasing the Western captives.

American journalist Terry Anderson, 43, of Lorain, Ohio, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, is the longest-held foreign captive. He was kidnapped March 16, 1985.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel. 73111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Cartoons
18:15 L'ecole de Paris
18:30 News in French
19:15 News in English
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Yes Minister
21:10 Under the Sun
22:00 News in English
22:30 Paradise

PRAYER TIMES
05:05 Fajr
05:27 (Sunrise) Duha
12:33 Dhuhr
16:13 Asr
19:36 Maghrib
20:10 Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifich Tel. 510740
Assumption of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622666
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 622941
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751
Assume International Church Tel. 683326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER
It will be fair and windy will be northwesterly moderate. In Asaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.
Min./Max. temp.
Amman 11/25
Asaba 18/32
Deserts 11/28

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Jordan Valley 16/31

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 23, Asaba 31. Humidity percentage: Amman 54 per cent, Asaba 27 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Walid Samadi 683266
Dr. Rami Mizzi 894788
Dr. Mahmoud Azzam 819923
Dr. Mohammed Al Ajam 894844
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 783336
Al Asana pharmacy 637055
Al Saba pharmacy 623672
Al Saba pharmacy 636730
Yusuf pharmacy 649493
Shawab pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Mazen Abu Baker (-)

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 61111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 854902
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 697131
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/22
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Al-Badr, J. Ashrafieh 77110/3
Al-Badr, J. Ashrafieh 77111/26
Army, Marfa 89161/15
Queen Alia Hospital 60240/30
Ansal Hospital 674135
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarga National Hospital (09)991071
Bin Sam Hospital (09)986732
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Bin Al Nafise Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)52209-5, where it should always be verified.

RECEIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
18:15 Jeddah (RJ)
18:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
19:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:05 Paris, Geneva (RJ)
19:55 London, Brussels (RJ)
19:00 Madrid, Rome (RJ)
19:15 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
12:40 Tripoli (LN)
18:30 Larnaca (CY)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
12:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:45 Cairo (RJ)
20:15 Damascus, Larnaca (RJ)
20:30 Dhahran (RJ)
21:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:30 Bangkok, Singapore (RJ)
01:00 Jeddah, Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
10:25 Rome (AZ)

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in fils per kg
Apples 350 / 450
Bananas 300 / 400
Bananas (Makassar) 450 / 400
Beans 600 / 500
Broad beans 480 / 400
Cabbage 140 / 100
Carrot 280 / 150
Cauliflower 160 / 120
Cucumbers (large) 130 / 90
Cucumbers (small) 240 / 200
Eggplant 350 / 280
Garlic 450 / 400
Lemon 130 / 90
Lettuce (per one) 150 / 100
Marrow (large) 140 / 80
Marrow (small) 160 / 120
Onion (dry) 180 / 120
Onion (green) 170 / 120
Orange 350 / 200
Pepper (red) 240 / 200
Pepper (green) 240 / 200
Potato 280 / 220
Radish 150 / 100
Sage 450 / 350
Spinach 130 / 90
Tomatoes 220 / 150
Watermelon 300 / 150

مَكْزَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

Home News

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 1991 3

Queen thanks refugee helpers

RICHMOND, Virginia (AP) — Her Majesty Queen Noor stopped by the headquarters of the Christian Children's Fund on Thursday to thank the child care agency's workers for sending relief supplies to refugees in Jordan.

"We're very appreciative of the support that's been offered," the Queen told a roomful of agency employees.

At the Queen's request, the Christian Children's Fund sent Jordan 10,000 blankets and \$50,000 in relief funds at the height of the Gulf war. The Queen and the private agency are discussing a relief programme for refugee children.

The Queen said Jordan had been flooded with several hundred thousand refugees because of the Gulf war.

About 50,000 refugee children have been added to the country's school system, "quite an extraordinary burden," she said.

She said supplies from the Christian Children's Fund and other international relief agencies would be used to curb malnutrition and improve health care and education.

During a U.S. tour that has taken her to the West Coast, the south and Washington, D.C., the Queen said she had been greeted warmly despite strains between Jordan and the U.S. during the war.

Those tensions stemmed "largely if not entirely from misunderstandings," between Jordan and the U.S., she said.

She said Jordan had done more than any other Middle East nation to advance peace in the region.

"We will continue to play as constructive and as positive a role as we can," she said.



Jordan, Egypt to discuss cooperation in health

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Adnan Al Jaijoli left Saturday for Cairo on an official several-day visit for talks with his Egyptian counterpart aimed at promoting Jordanian-Egyptian cooperation in health-related activities.

The minister will also take part in an annual Arab conference on emergency cases and cases resulting from accidents on the roads, due to open in Cairo Monday.

The three-day conference will tackle a number of questions of concern to the Arab countries, according to Dr. Jaijoli who said he would discuss with the regional director of the World Health Organisation (WHO) the organisation's assistance to Jordan's health programmes.

Before going to Cairo, the health minister opened here a training seminar attended by countries in the Mediterranean region.

The WHO-sponsored seminar will tackle topics related to insecticides and heavy metals and their adverse effects on public health.

The WHO representative in Jordan and Syria stressed the need for doctors in the region to turn their attention to occupational risks and matters related to health care for the workers in factories dealing with poisonous materials.

He said that the training seminar was designed to help orient the participants on proper means of providing protection against poisonous materials to which workers are exposed.

Countries represented in the seminar are: Jordan, Egypt, Sudan, Yemen and Tunisia.



Minister of Higher Education Saeed Al Tal Saturday holds a press conference tackling training and employment of human resources (Petra photo)

Minister says human resources are badly managed in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Higher Education Saeed Al Tal Saturday complained of the lack of a general plan in Jordan to organise the training and the employment of human resources and called on the government to establish a council for human resources planning and development.

Addressing a press conference, the minister said that his ministry was giving due concern to developing the quality of higher education, and was in the process of conducting a study designed to link training courses at Jordanian universities with the actual needs of the Jordanian society.

The lack of a proper strategy in this matter has been behind the crisis of unemployment of a large number of community colleges

and universities graduates.

"The Ministry of Higher Education should be transformed into an institution that can supervise and follow up the work of community colleges and universities so that their training courses are of benefit to society," Dr. Tal said.

Referring to university education in Jordan, the minister said that the Kingdom could be alone among world nations where universities and community colleges operate on purely commercial basis.

He said that the creation of so many community colleges and private universities was due to the inability of the government-controlled institutions to accommodate all the students wishing to acquire higher education.

"Soon, ministry-appointed teams will embark on tours of community colleges and private universities to examine their efficiency and their programmes," the minister pointed out. "Should any of these institutions prove to be below the required standard, they will not be allowed to operate," the minister warned.

He said the ministry would issue a guidebook outlining standards required from each college and also providing guidelines for students to choose for their future careers.

Dr. Tal also said that the Ministry of Higher Education planned to limit the fees each college or university charges and would set up special committees for this purpose.

Committee to start checking factories' waste as deadline ends

ZARQA (J.T.) — A government appointed Public Health Safety Committee will soon conduct spot checkings during surprise visits to factories and companies set up in the Zarqa River basin in order to ensure that their waste water, flowing into the river, conforms to specifications set by the concerned authorities, according to an announcement by Zarqa Governor Mohammad Al Shobaki.

Mr. Shobaki said that the deadline given to the various businesses to comply with the regulations ended Friday and the government would not be lenient to violators of the law.

Mr. Shobaki said that the Public Health Safety Committee would be implementing directives given by the prime minister who stressed the need for factories to treat waste water going into the river that feeds the King Talal Dam in order to reduce to a minimum the level of pollution. The water in the dam is used for irrigating the Jordan Valley farms.

According to Deputy Governor Ghaleb Imeqna, the teams Saturday embarked on inspection tours in order to ensure that factories abide by the regulations. The stringent measure followed an outcry by the Jordan Valley farmers who claimed they sustained JD 60 million losses in damages to their crops after irrigating them with contaminated water from the King Talal Dam.

The prime minister recently announced the formation of a special committee to investigate into the causes of the damages, but a final report is still to be submitted to the government.

At a meeting with the Jordan Farmers Federation, the prime minister announced last week that the government was granting the federation JD 500,000 to purchase fertilisers, seeds and other requirements to be sold to the farmers at nominal value in order to encourage production.

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Maraqa wins JMA presidency

By Ella Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The newly elected President of the Jordan Medical Association (JMA) Dr. Ishaq Maraqa hopes to introduce drastic changes to the concepts and activities of the association, transforming it into a true professional entity rather than a politically-oriented association.

"I am determined to bring about a transformation of the basic concepts of the association in terms of structure, election of the board members and association activities, and will try to solve other issues of concern to the Jordanian doctors and specialists," Dr. Maraqa told the Jordan Times Saturday.

"What I want to see is an association oriented towards promoting the profession of medicine itself rather than a politicisation of the association, as the practice has been so far," said Dr. Maraqa.

Dr. Maraqa won the election, held Friday, when he got 925 votes against 788 votes that went to his sole rival Dr. Hassan Khreis.

Dr. Maraqa, 57, was elected along with nine members who will serve with him on the JMA board for the coming two years.

Soon after his election, Dr. Maraqa, who ran as an independent candidate, delivered a speech at the Professional Association Complex promising to remain committed towards preserving the unity and enhancing the rights of the doctors and their association.

"To date, the JMA board has been based on the political rather than professional concepts, with different political blocs nominating their candidates to the post, but this is totally unbefitting of a profession and it has to stop," said Dr. Maraqa.

He said that the president and the board members should be elected on the strength of their professional rather than their political orientations.

Dr. Maraqa denied that he had represented the Muslim movement among the doctors and reiterated that he was running in his capacity as an independent candidate "and that is why I won."

His other concerns, he said, included the Jordan Medical Board, which required modernisation, the Higher Medical Council, where the JMA should play a more active role, and the unemployed doctors.

Dr. Maraqa said that he planned to create a special fund that



Ishaq Maraqa

can extend help to the unemployed doctors or help find them jobs. "Furthermore, I intend to approach the Saudi Arabian government for the purpose of finding employment for the Jordanian doctors who had proved their high standard and skill," he noted.

Asked of the JMA fund, he said it stood at JD 5 million, but the JMA owned JD 2 million in cash and intended to set up a housing estate for the Jordanian doctors.

Dr. Maraqa, a neurologist, said he hoped that the newly elected nine-member board would agree to his programme and help draw up a plan of action that would

promote JMA's activities in the country.

According to the official results announced at dawn Saturday, the following doctors became JMA members for the new term: Daoud Muhtaseb, Yousef Othman, Yousef Muasher, Jaafar Humeidi, Basem Dajani, Mousa Abu Elmeid, Zuhri Elmelli, Mohammad Al Bataineh and Adam Al Abdallah.

Fourteen other candidates came second runners in the elections where 1,741 cast their votes in Amman, Karak and Irbid.

Press reports had earlier said that Dr. Maraqa represented the Islamic movement while Dr. Hassan Khreis represented the nationalist movement. Dr. Maraqa denied he represented any political group and emphasised that he would be of service to all doctors in his association.

Five of those running under Dr. Khreis's bloc won as JMA members. They are: Yousef Muasher, Jaafar Humeidi, Mousa Abu Elmeid, Mohammad Al Bataineh and Adam Al Abdallah. The other winners were mostly running as independent.

According to JMA sources, only 1,740 doctors took part in the election though a total of 3,219 are registered with the JMA.

Jordanian, Japanese parliamentarians stress need for just Mideast settlement

AMMAN (Petra) — The head of a visiting Japanese parliamentary delegation Saturday stressed the need for bolstering Jordanian-Japanese cooperation in all fields, especially in finding a settlement to the Middle East problem.

Speaking at a meeting with Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyat, the Japanese parliamentarian Yoshiaki Kibi said that his delegation's visit was aimed at bolstering just cooperation and at discussing just solutions for the region's chronic problems.

Mr. Kibi stressed the importance of Jordan's role in the peace process and noted that his country was willing to provide assistance to the needy countries of the region.

The delegation, which represents the Arab-Japanese Parliamentary Friendship Association, was briefed by Dr. Arabiyat on Jordan's experiment in parliamentary and democratic rule. Dr. Arabiyat said that Jordan sought to bolster its ties with

other countries on the basis of the concepts of democracy, freedom and respect for human dignity.

"The Japanese people are considered friends of the Arabs who hope that relations between the two sides would continue to grow and progress for the interest of both sides," Dr. Arabiyat said.

Dr. Arabiyat voiced Jordan's hope that Japan would play a major role in settling Middle East issues and that it would adopt a just stand with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He said the Arab countries hoped to benefit from and contribute to the new world order, and hoped to bolster their ties with the Japanese people in economic, political and social fields.

The Arab-Japanese Parliamentary Friendship Association was established in 1973 for the purpose of bolstering Arab-Japanese ties.

Several parliament members and the Japanese ambassador to Jordan were present at the meeting.

Demand for construction materials increases

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Jordanian association of workers in marble, bricks and masonry Yousef Huneiti said Saturday that there had been a clear boom in the construction business in Jordan in the wake of Gulf war which brought about increased demand for construction materials.

The bricks, marble and stone factories have proved to be incapable of coping with the increasing demand even though they are trying to work at full capacity following almost nine months of reduced activity due to the Gulf crisis, Mr. Huneiti said.

He said that the increase had come about largely due to the growing demand for materials in Jordan alone as exports are still at a minimum level.

According to Mr. Huneiti, members of the association have succeeded with difficulty in recruiting some Jordanian workers to produce construction materials to cope with the growing demand, and the association has approached the Ministry of Labour's employment offices to provide them with more trained Jordanian workers and to allow non-Jordanians to be employed

for the time being. The Ministry of Labour has recently adopted measures reducing to a bare minimum the employment of non-Jordanian workers in various businesses, allowing them only where no Jordanian substitutes were available for the jobs.

Mr. Huneiti also said that a number of brick factories were still unable to function due to lack of sufficient number of Jordanian workers.

"Because of the reduced number of Jordanian workers, the production cost has risen without any improvement to the quality of the products," said Mr. Huneiti. "Besides, the existing factories do not function at full capacity and there can never be any surplus for export unless sufficient workers are supplied to these factories," Mr. Huneiti added.

According to Mr. Huneiti, in previous years the construction material factories in Jordan used to export JD 100 million worth of various products annually and used to employ 15,000 workers. He expressed hope that once the factories are working at full capacity, exports will resume.

Seminar tackles vocational training in the Arab World

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of institutions responsible for vocational training in six Arab countries gathered in Amman Saturday for a five-day seminar designed to promote vocational training in the Arab region and to discuss the prospect of establishing a regional network to supervise vocational training programmes.

The U.N. sponsored seminar is attended by delegates representing Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Egypt and Sudan as well as representatives of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

UNDP Representative Rafiq Shakkar said that the seminar was part of U.N. assistance to help developing nations promote their socio-economic sectors.

He said that the UNDP had allocated JD 1.686 million to promote such activities in the Arab World.

Addressing the opening session was Dr. Ahmad Atwan, general of the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) in Jordan, who reviewed VTC's achievements and thanked the UNDP for its constant support and assistance.

An ILO representative outlined the organisation's contributions to help the Arab countries promote vocational training programmes.

The five-day seminar aims at expanding work in vocational training organisations in the Arab World through promoting exchanges of expertise and providing assistance in terms of programmes and training.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITION
★ Exhibition of etchings, lithographs and monographs, by Ahmad Nawash and Yasser Durweik at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. — 5 p.m.)

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Italy

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a cable to Italian President Francesco Cossiga to congratulate him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian government and people on Italy's national day. King Hussein wished President Cossiga good health and happiness and the Italian people further progress and prosperity.

Kuwaiti crown prince congratulates Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received a cable from Kuwaiti Prime Minister, Crown Prince Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, who congratulated King Hussein on Jordan's Independence Day. Prince Saad wished King Hussein continued good health and happiness and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan received a similar cable from the Kuwaiti crown prince.

Prince Hassan to attend graduation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will Sunday patronise the graduation ceremony of the 3rd batch of the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) students.

Minister back from Nairobi talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Rural and Municipal Affairs and the Environment Mohammad Al Zaben returned to Amman from Nairobi Friday after heading the Jordanian delegation at the 16th session of the United Nations Environmental Programme held between May 25 and May 30. Dr. Zaben told reporters at the airport shortly after arrival that the Jordanian delegation had presented at the meetings a working paper dealing with the environmental experiment in Jordan and measures taken by the government to tackle environmental problems. The delegation, he said, participated with Arab delegations in drafting a resolution on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian lands and another resolution on solving environmental problems resulting from the Gulf war.

Financial Committee needs public help

AMMAN (Petra) — The Financial Committee at the Lower House of Parliament is seeking public help in matters related to financial and economic development in Jordan. The committee's rapporteur Matir Al Bustanji issued a call to members of the public to come forward with proposals and views about economic and financial matters that could help the committee draw up a new law pertaining to Jordanian companies. The committee chairman is Dr. Abdullah Ensour.

ACC head back from Cairo

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary General of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) Hassan Ibrahim returned to Amman Friday after visiting Cairo. Mr. Ibrahim said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that he met during his visit with the secretary general of the Arab League and several Egyptian officials with whom he discussed ways to enhance and activate joint Arab action in the coming stage.

No lines for official business at home

AMMAN (Petra) — Senior government officials requesting to have telephones at home for official business will not receive such favour if they already have telephone lines installed at their homes, according to a circular issued by Prime Minister Mudar Badran. The circular said that concerned government departments should ensure that senior officials do not have telephones before submitting requests on their behalf for the installation of telephones at their home.

Memorandum asks funds for hospital

AMMAN (Petra) — Members of the National Bloc of the Lower House of Parliament have submitted a memorandum to the House speaker giving details about the health services offered by Al Ramtha Hospital in northern Jordan. The memorandum demands that the health minister allocate sufficient funds in the coming year to meet shortages in health services and facilities. These include an expansion of the present hospital building, an increase in the number of specialists and nurses, and the installation of sufficient equipment.

Bids for mosque restoration reviewed

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs Ibrahim Zeid Al Kilani Saturday chaired a meeting of Al Aqsa Mosque Restoration Committee. The meeting discussed tender bids offered by international firms to conduct restoration work at the Dome of the Rock Mosque site.

Civil courts holiday announced

AMMAN (J.T.) — This year's summer holiday for civil courts will start on July 16th and will end on Aug. 31st, according to a decision by Justice Minister Majid Khalifah. The decision came in response to a request by the Jordan Bar Association. According to the decision, cases assigned at the courts during this period will be postponed to later dates, if lawyers wish to benefit from this decision. However, the decision states that courts will accept cases assigned in this period if lawyers wish to do so. The decision banned assigning court sessions for cases whose advocates are on leaves during the period.

Two women questioned for theft

AMMAN (J.T.) — The prosecutor general Thursday started questioning two women accused of stealing jewellery from shops in the gold market down town Amman. Public prosecution sources said the two women had specialised in stealing jewellery shops since 1980 and have collected a sum of JD 40,000 since then. The two women, the sources said, were arrested several times, but this did not stop them from committing more theft crimes.

Second golf season starts

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Bin Hussein the second Jordan Open Golf Championship will be held Friday, June 28 at the Bisharat Golf Course. This event for men is sponsored by the Hotel Jordan Inter Continental and will be complemented on the same day by the ladies' championship, Rose Bowl, presented by Her Royal Highness Princess Munira Al Hussein. Forty players are expected to participate and invitations have been extended to golfers in Cyprus, Syria, and the Gulf.

Israelis claim shooting guerrilla

(Continued from page 1)

Israeli chief of staff Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak arrived on the scene of the incident and questioned soldiers and regional commanders, the army said.

The army also said Saturday that Israeli soldiers had apprehended what they described as "a Jordanian soldier" the day before near a water park along the Dead Sea.

The "Jordanian soldier," dressed in civilian clothes, pulled out a commando knife when confronted by an Israeli soldier guarding the water park at Kibbutz Qalya, 27 kilometres south-east of Jerusalem, the army contended.

"The soldier fired into the air and captured the Jordanian with the help of bystanders," said a military source, who cannot be named according to regulations.

They were the first infiltration attempts along the ceasefire line with Jordan since April 18, when an armed guerrilla killed an Israeli farmer and wounded three others before being shot dead by Israeli troops.

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Sunday's Economic Pulse

Economic adjustment should resume immediately

By Dr. Fahd Al-Fayez

JORDAN's present financial position is healthy. The budget deficit has been covered by foreign aid and the reserves of the Central Bank are comfortable. This was made possible because hundreds of millions of dollars in overdue interest were not paid. Can this continue into 1992 and beyond?

It seems, at the moment, that Arab aid to Jordan is out of question in the foreseeable future. Foreign aid, however, is tied to the implementation of economic sanctions against Iraq, which hopefully will not last for long. The foreign creditors have started to press their demands for payment.

Under these conditions, the government should act without further delay, but nothing seems to be happening or about to happen. The present government is not even trying to worry about the future, perhaps because it has not future.

Jordan adopted an economic adjustment programme approved by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in April 1989, only six months after the eruption of the foreign indebtedness crisis in October 1988. The programme aimed at the gradual reduction of substantial imbalances in the economy.

Since then, the programme was implemented successfully. It achieved the main objectives in many areas, especially the budget, the balance of trade, the balance of payments, domestic

savings, rebuilding of reserves, and exchange rate stability. The implementation lasted for 15 months until it was interrupted by the Gulf crisis, when Jordan was hit hard in all its sources of foreign exchange such as Arab aid, exports to Iraq and Gulf states, remittances from expatriates, over and above the near standstill of tourism and transit activities.

The IMF, the creditors of the Paris Club, and the private creditors of the London Club understood the situation. They did not push for repayments of the debt. On the contrary, they came to Jordan's side by fresh financial help especially from Japan, Germany, and the European Community.

Thanks to the substantial aid received by the government, the suspension of debt service, and Iraqi crude oil, Jordan was able to manage its problems, survive the crisis, and absorb the shock. But what comes next?

It is no secret that creditors are now demanding the resumption of repayment. Rescheduling needs a fresh IMF certificate of good economic conduct which we do not have any more. More important, it was agreed by all major donors that all international aid to the states in the region will, from now on, be tied to fundamental economic reforms.

In other words, unless and until we have an acceptable

adjustment programme, we shall not be considered eligible for receiving foreign aid. Even the aid from the \$15-billion Arab fund that was established by the Gulf states will be conditional on economic reforms as defined by the IMF.

However, a proper adjustment programme is needed for our own best interest. This is necessary in order to attain steady growth, equitably shared by the population, coupled with a stable external position. We should undertake this crucial task even if it were not imposed as a condition for eligibility to debt relief, rescheduling, and foreign financial aid.

Labour, capital, and goods markets will need to be opened to free competition. Rationalisation of subsidies and decoupling of domestic prices, are a must. These reforms would permit more efficient interaction between capital surpluses and labour surpluses, in an environment of increasing integration with the global economy.

Time is running out, and the current comfortable position may not continue unless the government made an urgent and decisive move to resume adjustment vigorously and push ahead with reform. If we do not do it willingly now, we shall have to do it anyway later on, but at a much higher economic and social price. Adjustment should be resumed, and soon.

Plan has shortcomings

U.S. President George Bush announced with much fanfare Wednesday his detailed proposal to curb the spread of conventional, nuclear, chemical and biological weapons as well as surface to surface ballistic missiles in the Middle East region. This initiative coincided with the visit to Israel by U.S. Secretary of Defence Dick Cheney to consolidate the U.S.-Israeli strategic and security cooperation and streamline the additional U.S. military support to Israel to the tune of \$750 million.

Israel's anti-missile Arrow programme appears to receive the lion's share of Washington's interest and is targeted for extra funding from the U.S. to the extent of 70 per cent of its production costs. The clearly contradictory signals coming out of the U.S. capital, one calling for a ceiling on conventional and nonconventional weapons in the region and the other offering Israel more and greater military support, make a mockery of the entire exercise to rid the area of the scourge of war.

But that is not all. In announcing his outline for disarmament for this part of the world, President Bush said that halting the proliferation of weapons while supporting the legitimate need of every state to defend itself will require the cooperation of many states in the region and around the world.

Yet the punch line in the newest U.S. initiative to stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction is directed to the ban on the future production or buying of weapons-grade uranium and to place all nuclear facilities under international safeguards. In this sense the plan is seriously lacking because it does not address the issue of what to do with existing Israeli nuclear capabilities conservatively estimated to be no less than one hundred nuclear warheads. Viewed against this remarkable deficiency, Mr. Bush's outline for an arms control in the area aims to maintain Israeli monopoly on the possession of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons. Such a plan therefore cannot be acceptable to the Arab side without addressing this patent imbalance.

There are other features of the disarmament programme that are also devoid of balance. Take for example the call for a freeze on the purchase, production and testing of surface-to-surface missiles with the ultimate aim of eliminating them. Given the Israeli air superiority, the Arab's acquisition of such missiles was their only way to deter Tel Aviv's obvious control of the airspace in the region. There is a need therefore to curb the Israeli superiority in space in order to make this element in the U.S. plan more acceptable to the Arab side.

As for the call to ban all chemical and biological weapon systems, it presents no problem for either side to accept such a demand especially in view of the fact that both systems of weapons are outlawed under existing international law.

Yet the biggest flaw in the entire scheme is its attempt to put the cart before the horse since it does not envisage the attainment of a lasting and just peace in the area as a prerequisite to its implementation. By shunning away the organic link that clearly exists between the issues of peace and war, the whole exercise remains lopsided in perspective. Only by addressing the Arab-Israeli conflict in its entirety would any plan to curb armament have a chance of success. With U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's peace initiative hanging in the balance, there is no sure way through which the parties to the conflict can feel secure enough to appreciate the salient features of Mr. Bush's proposals. The least that the parties may expect in this context is a parallel consideration of the issues of peace and armament in the area. Anything short of that would be an exercise in futility.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily criticised the United States for envisaging a plan for disarmament which it intends to impose on the Arabs but not on Israel and a statement by an American administration official saying that mass-destruction weapons represent the 'crown jewels' for Israel which cannot be disposed off. The paper noted that the United States seems to be determined to maintain Israeli military superiority under all circumstances, and for this reason, it has just announced plans to provide Israel with more weapons and fighter planes. Furthermore, and in this hostile atmosphere directed against the Arabs, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir announced that the Jewish state cannot give up one inch of Arab land occupied since 1967, the paper noted. By adopting this policy towards the Middle East, the United States has thus openly declared its strategy and the Arabs have no justification for further delay in announcing their clear attitude towards this flagrant defiance to their existence and their interests, the paper stressed. There is a great gap between what the Arabs want, and they are justified in their demands, and Washington's plans towards the Middle East, said the paper. It said that the Arabs now realise that Washington is just prying about its intention of establishing peace in the Arab region, while it is openly supporting Israel's military superiority over all Arabs.

Sawt Al Shabab Arabic daily made a mockery of the American official stand with regard to the situation in the Middle East region and the statements by the U.S. administration officials. The paper said while Bush announced that he intends to introduce a plan for disarmament in the Middle East, his defence secretary announced that he intends to provide Israel with further numbers of advanced war planes and plans to help the Jewish state develop its rocket programme by providing it with \$300 million. The paper said that the Arabs cannot understand such hypocrisy and such double standards, and can only explain this attitude by deepening their realisation that Washington intends to disarm the Arabs while keeping Israel in a position to dictate its will on the whole Arab Nation. The paper said that the Arabs can by no means believe that the Americans are serious about their peace initiatives, at a time when they openly announce that they will pursue a plan of bolstering Israel's military capabilities and by announcing that Washington will use Israel as a warehouse for storing U.S. military hardware to confront any war in the future.

Holocaust mentality obscures Israel's vision

By Robert Bermudes

THE Israel-Palestine conflict is the product of the Israeli political philosophy of "empowerment." This new "guiding star" of Israel is a threat to the tradition of an ancient religious people; it supercedes the 1800-year-old rabbinical tradition which had counselled passivity, non-resistance and powerlessness.

With the defeat of the Zealots in the second century A.D., the Jewish community turned its back on racial exclusivism and rooted Judaism in the Torah and the sayings of the Rabbis, the Mishna. The passages of the Bible so important to Jews and Christians reflecting a God of love, justice and peace strongly influenced Jewish culture and politics in the centuries that followed. Those writings rejected the older, racially exclusive concepts of their people and their God. Ethical Judaism's appeals to high ideals and universalism became entrenched for 1800 years.

It is now, therefore, important to ask why, after the emergence of political Zionism in the 19th century, there has been a shift from the ethical mandates of the Prophets and the Mishna to the pragmatic interests of the present Israeli government, which now espouses an exclusivist view of God: God has mandated "The Land" to the Jews. Beginning

with Theodore Herzl, the assertion that "Israel is the country of the Jews and only of the Jews" has been at the heart of Zionist dogma. In turn David Ben-Gurion, Golda Meir, Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Shamir all espoused this exclusive view, attributing their possession of "The Land" to divine will. Even recently, Shamir, on at least one public occasion, has rejected the land-for-peace formula with the assertion that "God has given Israel this land."

The impact of the Holocaust

The shift in beliefs was greatly accelerated by the unprecedented suffering of the Jews at the hands of the Nazis. In fact, I suggest the Holocaust became the supreme crisis of faith for Jewry and has brought a wholly new search for meaning.

This question arose: if the God of the chosen people once rescued the faithful from Egypt, why did he not rescue their offspring from the Holocaust? If God left their people

For many of today's Jews, God's answer came with and lies in the formation of the state of Israel and through the power that statehood represents. The point was not wasted on the Holocaust survivors that the essential ingredient inherent in the preservation of any sovereign state — especially a sovereign Israel — is power. It is clear to Israel's present leadership that the acquisition of

power is inevitably and absolutely essential, and the earlier virtue of powerlessness is now viewed as unforgivable sin. Their slogan is now the oft-repeated phrase "never again." They must keep the Holocaust fresh in the world's consciousness. They must acquire, enlarge and employ military power to ensure their security.

Political power, sustained by European and North American Jews who are increasingly politically active, has become "sacred." This transition in Jewish thinking from "quiet invisibility" to activism reflects the shift from the sacramental to the secular, from effacement and powerlessness to empowerment.

"Chequebook Judaism"

It would seem that financial, military and political power is Israel's highest priority. Marc Ellis, a Jewish theologian, asserts that the "newly formed political attitudes and alliances of American Jewry are seen by some as Judaism without religious content, or 'chequebook Judaism' that substitutes financial support for religious obligation." Israel's need to amass power has reached the level of sacred principle. The new reactionary pragmatism is writing its own type of "sacred" literature. Accounts that tell and retell 20th century events help to shape the framework for a new

Jewish state founded on expediency, military alliances and power, surrounded, of course, by an "eternally hostile world."

The failure of the present Israeli government to heed the Prophetic tradition further contributes to the bankruptcy of Jewish values. The Prophets did not merely hold up perfectionist ideals; they explicitly denounced those faults and potentially disastrous actions from which their community sought to hide. The tragic result of this repression of the Prophetic tradition has meant that many Jews can no longer understand another's story, hear another's pain or acknowledge that other communities' struggles for freedom are as valid as their own.

So much of the ethical tradition has been repressed in favour of this newly exalted empowerment that it is in danger of being forced to go underground or die. One rarely hears any call for justice for Palestinians from American Jewry. Yet, was it not Amos who eloquently denounced the social injustices in the Northern Kingdom of Israel in the eighth century B.C.? "You oppress the righteous and take bribes and you deprive the poor of justice in the courts. Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream (5:21)."

God admonished the chosen people, "do not ill treat an alien

or oppress him, for you were aliens in Egypt, you know the heart of the stranger" (Exodus 23:9). Isaiah condemned his own people of the Southern Kingdom of Judah because "justice is far from us." Jeremiah chastised his people who were arrogantly confident that the existence of the Temple in Jerusalem provided a guarantee of their security regardless of the moral condition of society. What message do these words convey to the present Israeli leadership, one wonders?

It is this new philosophy of empowerment was more humane and ethical, then those experienced the Holocaust might be able to understand the nature of apartheid as it is practised on the blacks of South Africa, and it is practised on the Palestinians of the occupied territories.

The failure of Holocaust philosophy

The Holocaust experience represents the Jewish people as they once were, helpless and suffering; but it does not address what the Israelis are now becoming: powerful oppressors. Holocaust philosophy enhances the Jews' legitimate need for power, but it fails to measure the true cost of that empowerment in terms of what it has cost the soul of Judaism. Holocaust philosophy reflects the heights to which the human soul is capable of rising in

the struggle for dignity. That philosophy also evaluated the true importance of Jewish survival. But this political philosophy has nothing to say about the ethics of a Jewish state possessing nuclear weapons, supplying military arms to other authoritarian regimes, subjecting Palestinians to computerised ID tags, restricted movements, limited opportunities, deportation, harassment, torture and murder.

Holocaust philosophy fails completely since it does not provide a climate for peace and solidarity between Israeli and Palestinian. Even worse proof of its harm are the deep divisions fostered within the state of Israel between warring factions. Worse yet, Holocaust philosophy fosters the worship of a national security state and militarism. In contrast, the religion of the Old Testament Prophets spurs systems of control and domination and favours the quest for justice, peace and solidarity between oppressed peoples. Only Israel's return to that tradition can bring a new sense of identity to Jew and Palestinian, and peace to their land.

The Rev. Dr. Robert W. Bertrams is senior minister of the Irondequoit United Church of Christ, Rochester, NY. His article is reprinted from the London-based Middle East International.

Champion of a world in chains

Amnesty International turned 30 years old on May 27. Oliver Gillie from The Independent salutes an organisation that no government can intimidate or silence.

WHEN the moral high ground is pre-empted, an onslaught of righteous indignation provides the best chance to reclaim it quickly. That was Margaret Thatcher's tactic when Amnesty International dared to ask her about the shooting of three members of the IRA in Gibraltar in 1988.

Mrs. Thatcher was furious. The inquiry was "utterly disgraceful" she said, and made it clear she would not reply.

Her fury emanated from the knowledge that Amnesty could not be ignored. The importance of its work was recognised in 1977 when it was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. It is taken seriously all over the world. And it was not afraid to ask question and to say publicly that it was investigating whether the Gibraltar killings were "extra-judicial executions."

This phrase, familiar to Amnesty because such executions occur every day around the world, suggests the horrors of the Gestapo and the gas chamber. It placed Britain alongside countries such as Somalia, Iran and Argentina.

Richard Roach, a spokesman for Amnesty's international secretariat, says: "Why should we treat the United Kingdom as different from any other country in the world? Amnesty must be seen to be looking at the same areas in every country. There should be no no-go areas for human rights."

The struggle for this piece of moral high ground continues. The government denies there is a shoot-to-kill policy in Northern Ireland. But Amnesty alleges that 71 killings by the security forces in the province since 1982 took place in disputed circumstances and says the possibility that they may have been deliberately planned should be investigated.

Mrs. Thatcher's reaction was familiar: Amnesty is used to outraged responses. In 1980 there was a similar reaction from Israel when Amnesty reported that unnecessarily harsh methods were being used to quell public disturbances and that people in custody

were being ill-treated. The Israeli Ministry of Justice reply was swift: it called Amnesty's report "offensive." Nevertheless, the report appears to have been effective. The next year the Knesset amended the criminal law to give suspects the right of silence, although the police do not have to tell detainees they have this right.

Right or wrong, Amnesty has the muscle to ask awkward questions and make politically embarrassing charges because it owes no debts to any government. It accepts no government funds and, as it is not a charity, it cannot be muzzled by charity law that forbids political activism. Its constitution and wide international base also prevent any one group having undue influence or exercising a veto.

Friends of Israel, or any other country, would have difficulty in lobbying the organisation or blocking one of its investigations because of its rule that countries are not investigated by their own nationals. For example, Amnesty's principal researcher on human rights in Israel is an Italian gentle. Similarly, neither the British branch nor British nationals investigate possible abuses of

human rights here. Mr. Roach, the spokesman for the international branch in London, is Canadian.

Whatever is said by British politicians about Amnesty's work here; the government tacitly recognises the value of its activities elsewhere. British politicians frequently consult Amnesty about the state of human rights in the countries they intend to visit because it has a reputation for accuracy.

Amnesty, 30 years old and just celebrating, began in 1961 when a British lawyer, Peter Benenson, wrote an article in the Observer called "The Forgotten Prisoners." Its first confrontation with the U.K. government came in 1966 when it alleged that British troops were using torture in Aden.

"The resulting controversy nearly sunk Amnesty," Mr. Roach says. "It had been the darling of the liberal establishment in England until then. But they came down on it like a tonne of bricks because they believed it should be looking at the rest of the world."

The government appointed a commission of inquiry which, in effect, acknowledged the problem by recommending important changes in integration procedures.

Critics often claim that Amnes-

ty has a political bias. South Africans have called it a communist organisation and the Soviets have said it is run by the CIA. Such accusations, coming from both the left and the right, suggest that the organisation is occupying different ground — moral ground.

Amnesty's weapons, designed to embarrass officials and governments and so secure action, are its reports and the letters written by more than a million members worldwide. The president of Colombia's office recently received 20,000 letters from its members within a week. And the organisation says one West African head of state complained to an Amnesty delegation about the deluge of letters that always arrived when the authorities detained someone for questioning.

The effectiveness of these letters is described graphically by Julio de Pena Valdez, a trade unionist who was imprisoned naked in an underground cell in the Dominican Republic in 1975.

"When the first 200 letters came, the guards gave me back my clothes," he said. "Then the next 200 letters came and the prison director came to see me. When the next pile of letters arrived, the director got in touch with his superior. The letters kept coming and coming: 3,000 of

them. The president was informed. The letters still kept arriving and the president called the prison and told them to let me go."

When Mr. de Pena Valdez was released, the Dominican president, Joaquin Balaguer, called him to his office for a "man-to-man talk." He asked me "How is it that a trade union leader like you has so many friends all over the world? And he showed me an enormous box full of letters he had received." Mr. de Pena Valdez said.

In 1984, children in Norway responded to a radio appeal that presented the story of a nine-year-old Ethiopian boy who had spent his entire life in prison with his mother. The children sent drawings, cards and letters to the Amnesty office in Oslo, which sent them on to the Ethiopian president in a huge parcel. Five weeks later, the boy and his mother were freed.

Establishing the facts when allegations of human rights' abuse are made can be difficult. "Torture almost always takes place in secret," says Mr. Roach. "There are often no witnesses to abductions or arrests and even if there were, they may be intimidated into silence. And some countries will not allow Amnesty researchers to enter."



هكذا من الأصل

Only peace can end arms race

(Continued from page 1)

ary supremacy. Egyptian political observers and some Western diplomats said the Middle East arms control initiative seemed to favour Israel by leaving its nuclear weapons and defence industries intact. Israel refuses to confirm or deny a widespread belief that it has nuclear arms.

Bush proposed barriers to exports that contribute to weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, a freeze and later a ban on surface-to-surface missiles and production of nuclear weapons material, and restriction of conventional forces to a defensive role.

Egypt, the largest recipient of U.S. military and civil aid after Israel, has welcomed the initiative. It has long advocated a Middle East free of chemical and nuclear arms.

But Syria said on Friday that Bush's plan would apparently boost Israel's military might, unrivalled in the region.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa said Damascus was still studying the proposal but it seemed it would lead, if implemented, to promoting Israel's military supremacy.

Cheney, who arrived in Egypt from Israel on Friday, met with Mubarak on Saturday at Ismailia on the Suez Canal. Officials said they discussed arms control and other post-Gulf war issues for more than two hours.

"I don't see any point in introducing the (arms control) proposal at all because it appears to keep Israel's capability untouched," said Salama Ahmed Salama, managing editor of Egypt's influential semi-official daily Al-Ahram.

"Cheney seems to have conceded that Israel has the right to keep what it already has," he added. "I think Arabs are being deceived by proposals that allow Israel whatever it wants."

A Middle East analyst at Washington's Brookings Institute echoed the view that Israel's advantage would be preserved.

"Israel would get to keep its (nuclear) stockpile and since none of the Arab states has nuclear arms and Iraq's programme has been destroyed, that would be a big plus for them" (the Israelis), William Quandt said.

A Western diplomat based in Cairo also poured cold water on the arms control proposals.

"Israel has no intention of giving up what it does not admit to having, so it would claim compliance with the proposals as far as nuclear weapons are concerned," he told Reuters.

Cheney, Egyptians discuss security

(Continued from page 1)

coalition in driving Iraqi occupation forces from Kuwait "were absolutely vital in the war."

"Clearly, future Middle East arrangements will be significantly affected by what Mubarak thinks. He's the major leader in the region and I would expect them (Egyptians) to be active participants in any process."

In Tel Aviv Defence Minister Moshe Arens said Saturday the U.S. provision of 10 F-15 warplanes to Israel did not contradict Washington's arms control initiative.

Arens had said on Friday Israel

Rafsanjani calls for hostage deal

(Continued from page 1)

In recent days, Hizbollah has said it would trade two Israelis it is holding for Arabs held by Israel.

Hizbollah's newly elected leader, Abbas Musawi, said Israel's reluctance to include Palestinian prisoners in the proposed exchange was hampering a deal.

On Thursday, a Palestinian guerrilla faction announced it would trade the body of an Israeli soldier for "our comrades as well as Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners held by the enemy."

The Marxist Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine holds the remains of Sgt. Samir Assad, who was captured in South Lebanon in 1983. A year later, the DFLP announced Assad was killed in an Israeli attack on its base in northern Lebanon.

Israel has said it would free 300 Lebanese Shiite Muslims and 40 Palestinians captured in Lebanon in return for the repatriation of seven missing soldiers.

Also Saturday, Rafsanjani suggested that the United States was seeking a docile replacement for Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein to thwart the possibility of an Islamic regime coming to power.

"Right now the United States is worried that a popular government might come to power in Iraq," Rafsanjani told the Jomhuri Islami daily. "It reckons that the majority of the people of Iraq is Muslim, and the government may ultimately become Islamic."

He noted, however, that the United States has urged President Saddam's ouster. Last month, U.S. President George Bush said sanctions against Iraq for the Gulf war should not be lifted until Saddam is out of power.

"Probably they (the Amer-

icans) are after something similar to the Saddam government, but with a different name," Rafsanjani said.

He added: "Besides they need some time to gain the numerous concessions they want and carry on their work to make the Iraqi people exhausted and the next government weak."

The Iranian president said a change in leadership had not yet been forced on Iraq because "this dilly-dallying is to find suitable pawns."

Iraq has reported increasing economic problems stemming from the embargo imposed by the U.N. Security Council after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. A special U.N. committee has approved the unfreezing of Iraqi financial assets, but so far no countries have responded.

Rafsanjani's wide-ranging interview with Jomhuri Islami was timed to mark the second anniversary of the death of Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. He died on June 3, 1989.

Iran and Iraq, which were at war from 1980-88, remain tense neighbours at the head of the Gulf.

Rafsanjani was asked about efforts by Kurdish leaders to reach an agreement with Baghdad for autonomy in northern Iraq.

"They wanted to take advantage of Saddam's weakness and get concessions," Rafsanjani said.

He said that if President Saddam remained in power, he could not be counted on to carry out the pact, and that if he were ousted, his successors would have no obligation to honour it.

"In my view they (the Kurds) haven't gained anything," Rafsanjani said.

'Secret' witness in Kuwait trials

(Continued from page 1)

fear she would be raped, but the prosecution said she volunteered. She denied she had ever worked as a reporter, but the prosecution said there were letters asking for press credentials for her for a number of stories, including unveiling a mural of Saddam Hussein.

It also showed a list of telephone extensions at the paper that included her name.

Ms. Al Duhail appeared in court completely covered in black according to Islamic custom. But the judge called her to the bench and asked her to uncover her face and hair to the witnesses and the panel to confirm her identification.

Ethiopian leader pledges reconciliation

(Continued from page 1)

for millions of starving Ethiopians.

He said the EPRDF was moving its forces to the eastern Ogaden region because "this is the priority area for famine."

He said they would then move on and establish stability in the troubled southwestern region, from where there have been reports of looting and banditry.

"Dire Dawa is now under the full control of the EPRDF and our troops are proceeding towards Harar," Meles said, referring to two major towns in the famine-hit eastern Hararge region and one of the last areas of the country to fall under rebel control.

Nationwide, about eight million people face death through starvation in a famine worse than the catastrophic one of 1984-85 in which one million people died.

Dozens of people are already dying every day, particularly in the remote eastern Ogaden region which aid workers say is the worst hit area.

After meeting EPRDF representatives on Friday, senior U.N. officials expressed anger over delays in reopening Addis Ababa's international airport — closed since last weekend — and accused the rebels of failing to deliver on promises to get food aid moving again as quickly as possible.

Some parts of the country not under rebel control are reported to be in chaos, with banditry and looting widespread.

Parliament at mid-term: Not easy to assess

By Mureed Hammad

AS parliament enjoys its summer break this year, halfway through its elected term of four years, it is being subjected to an extensive public campaign of analysis and assessment, including positive and negative comments from the full spectrum of society. The scope and intensity of the debate about the performance of the 80-member, elected lower house of parliament (the upper house is appointed) have been enhanced by two factors: the two-year-old transition towards democratic and pluralistic government in Jordan, and the strong political and economic pressures which the people have been subjected to during the recent Gulf crisis and the preceding period of economic adjustment.

MPs and the public have both participated in the assessment process without reaching a clear consensus on parliament's performance, but expressing views ranging from extreme disappointment, to guarded satisfaction given the circumstances the country has passed through. One common comment has been the negative effect of the Gulf crisis on the performance of parliament, given the preoccupation of all Jordanians with the crisis and its sharp negative impact on the economy.

Within the two years since the house was elected in November 1989, the country

the first elected house we have had since the mid-sixties," said George Hawatmeh, editor of the English daily The Jordan Times. He suggested to Jordan Issues and Perspectives that efforts should be made to strengthen and cement this experiment. "Democracy is a cultural institution, not only in parliament but also at the grassroots level, which means that we the people have to change our practices," he said.

The other school mostly reflects views of the average man in the street, who sees in the House a magic prescription to heal the ailments that have accumulated over the past two decades. It often assumes that members of parliament can deal with major concerns overnight. Therefore, this school's major feelings were that the House did little or nothing on major issues — like improving the economy and living conditions or dealing with alleged corruption.

Lower House Speaker Abdul-Latif Arabiyat (Muslim Brotherhood) acknowledged parliament's several shortcomings in dealing with issues like financial and administrative corruption, but he also put part of the blame on the government. He told a recent press conference that solving such important issues requires cooperation between the legislative and executive branches. At the same time, he underlined that the house has approved 97 draft laws during

"If we can stand up and tell our MPs that they have failed, that is great. If our MPs can stand up, admit they have not done enough, and promise to do more, that is even greater."

has successively suffered a domestic economic crisis, a nearly 50% devaluation of the dinar, an IMF-approved economic adjustment programme, and the Gulf crisis, which resulted in a 30% decline in gross national product. Unemployment and poverty levels have both increased, while lower government subsidies and inflation have maintained pressures on family incomes. In such an economically constrained and emotionally charged context, parliament has been handed a full plate, and consequently it has faced high expectations for quick solutions.

One of the main criticisms of the House is that its members have not fulfilled many of the slogans they repeated during the 1989 election campaign, and that nothing has been done on major issues such as unemployment, corruption, water resources, lifting martial law, improving economic conditions, and raising incomes.

There are two schools of thought on evaluating the performance of parliament. One, mostly comprising intellectuals, professionals and academics, believes that democracy is a slow process and that the House has done its debt under the circumstances, even though they mostly believe that the House has adopted more slogans and rhetoric than practical working programmes to address voters' demands.

"Let's not forget that this is

a marathon 33 sessions. MP Bassam Haddadin (leftist) also acknowledged his quantitative achievement telling another press conference that the parliament's second session "was held during difficult circumstances which imposed itself on the performance of the House" — a reference to the Gulf crisis.

One political analyst reflected wide-spread sentiment when he said, "If the House going to be given the benefit of the doubt, it must bypass the causes of delay and get down to real business — meeting the voters' demands."

Public concern does not seem to centre on passing law as much as on dealing decisively with issues that touch on the day-to-day needs of the people.

In a sign of the new role of the Jordanian press in promoting accountability of public office-holders, the Arabic daily Al-Rai recently began publishing a series of public opinion reports on how people throughout the country view the performance of parliament. People in the northern agricultural, industrial and university city of Irbid, for example, were divided between those who expressed satisfaction at the House's performance and those who did not.

Former minister Trad Al Qadi said, "attacking parliament will only deny us our only chance of a real democracy. Our MPs have done well, and



Bassam Haddadin (left, second row)

we must give them enough time to fulfill their election campaign pledges."

Other people said they felt sorry for House members because they were subjected to "non-stop and heavy bombardment of demands and requests, some of which are quite impossible." However, people in Tafleh, a poorer and less developed agricultural region in the south were much more critical. Most of their comments centred on the fact that they were ignored by their representatives "once they settled down in their parliament seats."

Some said that "none of the grandiose promises were fulfilled... all we got was plenty of speeches," while others even called on members of parliament to resign and give way to a more dedicated house.

Citizens in Jerash and the Jordan Valley held similarly sceptical views, while calling on their MPs to pay more attention to their constituents' particular concerns, such as agriculture in the Jordan Valley.

House Speaker Arabiyat had earlier said he was keen on changing the procedural structure of the House, which he blamed for hampering its performance. He said that the house had requested an extraordinary summer session to make up ground lost during the recent months. He said that the House was studying various internal rules of a number of international parliaments in the hope that it could benefit from them.

But public opinion has never considered internal rules as a stumbling block. Some critics say members of parliament lost their drive the moment they sat on their seats under the big dome (covering the house). They accuse MPs of allowing the government to absorb their fervor by accepting cabinet portfolios.

"How can you correct the system and be part of it," is a common argument.

Many such comments were aimed at the 22-man strong Muslim Brotherhood bloc, which was accused of abandoning many of the slogans it had raised during the election campaign and on later occasions. More criticism surfaced when the group accepted five cabinet posts five months ago.

Arabiyat, a former spokesman for the Brotherhood, brushed aside such concerns, and said one cannot evaluate performance in such a short period. He said the government was cooperating more



Abdul-Latif Arabiyat



Saleman Arrar

now with the House, and more results would soon be visible to the public.

But criticism of the Muslim Brotherhood, which spread to articles and opinion columns in local newspapers, did not only centre on their joining the government, but also accused them of not living up to their slogans. They said the Brotherhood's political platform outside the House was not consistent with their stands on the Gulf crisis or on domestic issues raised in the House. The Brotherhood replied that the campaign of criticism against it was part of other political groups' efforts to score points ahead of the long-awaited establishment of political parties later this year.

The fact that political rivalry could spark national divisions prompted a warning from Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Zarka MP Abdul-Baqi Jammo (independent Islamist). He told a press conference there were about 70 political parties ready to burst onto Jordan's political scene, and that too many parties could cause severe divisions, especially when people confuse democracy with freedoms. "Democracy does not mean one can do whatever he wants. It is a way to govern," he said.

The general public mood is that two years is enough to see

signs that the House is doing something. Several members of parliament used the summer recess to address local meetings, seminars and conferences, finding themselves on the defensive much of the time.

Ajloun MP Ahmad Innab (Liberal) and former House Speaker Sulaiman Arrar (nationalist), in a recent lecture at Ajloun college in north Jordan, played down fears that the House was deviating from its mission and said it had accomplished a great deal. They both believed the house has diverse capabilities and qualifications and was capable of meeting the voters' demands.

MP Bassam Haddadin acknowledged that the major problems which people want to see eliminated are still there. He told a press conference that martial laws are still in effect one year after the expiry of a deadline set by the government to remove them. He also said most major problems, including indebtedness, unemployment, inflation and income levels, had been aggravated.

In between the two schools of thought stands a buffer group of optimists, who believe this whole argument is a healthy sign of a strengthening democratic process. As one typical housewife said, "if we can stand up and tell our MPs that they have failed, that is great. If our MPs can stand up, admit they have not done enough, and promise to do more, that is even greater."

Optimists feel that this democratic exercise will prove to be an important learning process ahead of the next elections, which will be fought on political party platforms, after the national charter is approved and parties come into being. All political circles in Jordan are looking forward to the next few months, during which regional meetings and then a national conference will approve the charter that will pave the way for the establishment of political parties within a context of political pluralism.

Political analysts believe that members of parliament will have to quickly put this stage behind them and get down to the real business of meeting the daily needs of people if they want their political parties to stand a chance in the next elections.

The above article is reprinted from "Jordan: Issues and Perspectives," a magazine published by the Jordan Information Bureau in Washington.

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Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 30/5/91	New York Close Date 31/5/91
Sterling Pound	1.7135	1.6975
Deutsche Mark	1.7189	1.7425
Swiss Franc	1.4840	1.4855
French Franc	5.8305	5.9075
Japanese Yen	137.78	136.35
European Currency Unit	1.1992	1.1805

USD Per STG
* European Opening at 9:00 a.m. GMT

European Currency Unit

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.81	5.93	6.06	6.34
Sterling Pound	11.43	11.25	11.06	10.93
Deutsche Mark	8.75	8.93	8.93	9.00
Swiss Franc	7.87	7.87	7.87	7.68
French Franc	9.25	9.25	9.25	9.18
Japanese Yen	7.81	7.65	7.53	7.31
European Currency Unit	9.93	9.81	9.75	9.50

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

Precious Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	360.65	6.70	Silver	4.12	.098

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 1/6/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.682	.684
Sterling Pound	1.1565	1.1623
Deutsche Mark	.3911	.3931
Swiss Franc	.4588	.4611
French Franc	.1153	.1159
Japanese Yen	.4921	.4946
Dutch Guilder	.3473	.3490
Swedish Krona	.1098	.1103
Italian Lira	.0527	.0530
Belgian Franc	.01900	.01910

Other Currencies

Date: 1/6/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7800	1.8050
Lebanese Lira	.074	.076
Saudi Riyal	.1815	.1821
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	.1844	.1860
Egyptian Pound	.1900	.2050
Omani Riyal	1.7400	1.7600
UAE Dirham	.1844	.1860
Greek Drachma	.3510	.3610
Cypriot Pound	1.4100	1.4300

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Date: 22/5/1991 Close

Index	22/5/1991 Close	29/5/1991 Close
All-Share	114.15	113.19
Banking Sector	110.98	110.27
Insurance Sector	112.59	112.59
Industry Sector	117.51	116.03
Services Sector	126.65	126.37

December 31, 1990 = 100

Top Israeli banker sees labour risks

TEL AVIV (AP) — The governor of the Bank of Israel has urged the government to create jobs for the influx of Soviet immigrants before immigration halted and emigration began.

Mr. Michael Bruno, finishing his five-year term as governor, presented the bank's 1990 annual report to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Mr. Bruno told Israeli radio that the 355 page report showed that the economy has stabilised but added that the "real test is how flexible the economy is in absorbing this increase in the labour force."

"The answer is that 1990 shows that it is far from being flexible enough," Mr. Bruno added.

"The danger exists that we will miss the opportunity to absorb the wave of immigration," Mr. Bruno said.

The central bank assumes one million Soviet Jews will immigrate to Israel by 1995, with 450,000 joining the work force. 150,000 young Israelis are also expected to reach working age by 1995.

Mr. Bruno urged the government to take such reforms as easing rigid wage frameworks to create more jobs.

"There will be a certain amount of emigration. The problem will be to contain it, to create the economical conditions that will make the immigrants want to stay and the Israelis not want to leave," Mr. Bruno said.

In a 60-page report released last month, the central bank said unemployment could rise to 18 per cent by 1995 if jobs were not created.

The report said that as many as 200,000 of the Soviet immigrants may try to leave the country along with thousands of young Israelis.

The unemployment rate was 9.7 per cent in the last quarter of 1990.

Mr. Bruno said the government paralysis may cause the crisis.

"What is needed today is not new plans, but that the government execute the plans it adopted in Sept. 1990," Mr. Bruno said.

"The potential political power of this government has not been realised in my opinion."

El Al posts \$14m profit

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's national El Al airlines reported a \$14.1 million profit for 1990 despite a tourist slump caused by the Gulf crisis, the company has announced.

El Al said it was one of only few international carriers to show a profit last year when overseas travel declined after Iraq's August invasion of Kuwait.

The company said it had increased revenues by 10.4 per cent in fiscal 1990, yielding a net profit of \$14.1 million. It was the fifth consecutive net annual profit for El Al but the figure was down from 1989 when a 24.2 million gain was reported.

accord it saw as one-sided.

Mr. Blankart refused to be drawn on what had now made the terms more acceptable, but it seemed unlikely Switzerland had extracted further concessions from its negotiating partners.

He hinted that Switzerland had softened its position, comparing it to a carpet-seller who wanted to get the highest price. "We got a price for the carpet that is entirely appropriate," he said.

"Clearly, as part of a community of nations, Switzerland must show more will to compromise

U.S. stocks soar to record highs

NEW YORK (Agencies) — U.S. stocks mounted a powerful rally to close at record highs Friday as signs that the economy is starting to pull out of recession ignited buying.

The Dow Jones industrial average ended with a gain of 27.05 points to 3,027.50, eclipsing the previous record close of 3,004.46 set on April 17. The Dow 30 stock index was up a very strong 113.59 points for the week.

But the rally was not broadly based as secondary market averages failed to surpass their old records.

New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) volume was active at 232 million shares, compared with 234 million on Thursday. Weekly volume totalled 817 million.

Advancing issues led declines by a 2-1 margin and the average price gained 24 cents. Friday's run-up climaxed a five-session gaining streak for blue-chip issues.

Cyclical stocks, including paper and chemical companies, attracted heavy demand as investors bet that the sector would be the first to benefit from a surge of pent-up consumer demand. "The money is being channelled into cyclical," said Mr. David Holt, director of technical research at Wedbush Morgan, referring to

stocks that closely follow economic cycles.

The heavy trading indicated that institutions are putting their weight behind the rally, Mr. Holt said.

"Institutions are putting large sums of capital into the market, mostly on cyclical, because the recession is either living on borrowed time or it's already over," he said.

Several reports suggested a recovery is in sight. The index of leading economic indicators rose 0.6 per cent in April and factory orders gained 1.8 per cent.

"Little by little, there seems to be accumulating evidence of things looking better out there and people seem to believe that," said Steve Poling at Amer Advisors Inc.

The rush to buy cyclical stocks, which have been battered by the recession, spurred investors to take money out of sectors that have recently been more profitable.

The Dow was alone in striking new highs since it is heavily weighted to cyclical stocks, analysts said.

The powerful rally left even cautious analysts predicting further stock price gains. "The market's not cheap, but the momentum is there. It probably can

carry further," said Mr. Harry Laubscher, an analyst at Tucker Anthony.

The NYSE composite index of all listed common stocks rose 1.49 to 212.99 and was up 6.33 for the week. The standard Poor's composite index of 500 stocks rose 2.87 to 389.83.

The American Stock Exchange index gained 2.20 to 371.99. The NASDAQ over-the-counter index was up 2.92 to 506.11.

The Wilshire Associates equity index, the market value of NYSE, American and NASDAQ issues, was 3,719,297, up 25,992 or 0.70 per cent.

Meanwhile, American consumers, lacking any appreciable increase in incomes, cut back their spending 0.1 per cent in April, the government said in a report that cast further doubt on anything better than a sluggish recovery from the recession.

Analysts said two other reports — a slight increase in new home sales in April for the third month in a row and a slim decline in new claims for unemployment benefits for the second straight week in mid-May — also suggested a slow turnaround in the U.S. economy this summer.

"There's a strong indication in the latest numbers that the recovery is going to be quite weaker

Moroccan citrus sales rise by 33%

RABAT (R) — Exports of Moroccan citrus fruits this season surged by 33 per cent by the end of March compared to the same period of last season, the citrus fruit and vegetable export agency (EACCE) has said.

Foreign sales of clementines rose 28 per cent and of navel oranges by 85 per cent compared to the previous season at the same date. Total exports were 418,800 tonnes compared to 314,950.

EACCE said the increases were due to early ripening of small fruits like clementines and larger quantities of export-quality fruits thanks to favourable weather conditions.

Exports of late variety oranges are estimated at between 220,000 and 240,000 tonnes, so that the original export estimate of 600,000 tonnes of citrus fruits for the whole season is expected to be higher.

Fresh vegetable exports rose 44 per cent to 185,400 tonnes, including 62,800 tonnes of potatoes and 122,600 tonnes of tomatoes.

Morocco also expects to harvest a record cereal crop over this season with nearly eight million tonnes of wheat, barley and maize.

Harvesting, which began in early May, is expected to yield a total of 7.86 million tonnes thanks to widespread winter rains and a mild spring.

The previous record was 7.6 million tonnes in the 1987-88 season.

Japan trade surplus rockets

TOKYO (R) — Weaker imports helped propel Japan's overall trade surplus upward by almost 300 per cent in April compared to the same month in 1990, raising fears that its trade gap with the rest of the world is entering a new period of expansion.

The surplus in Japan's unadjusted current account, a broad measure of its trade in goods and services, increased to \$7.77 billion from a \$1.96 billion surplus a year earlier, the finance ministry said Friday.

"The current account won't grow at the pace it did this month, but we should see a continuing trend toward wider surpluses during the coming months," said Mr. Adrian Tschogel, economist at SBCI Securities (Asia) Ltd.

The April surplus was the highest since March, 1990, when it was \$8.05 billion but government officials said it was too early to draw any conclusions about an overall trend.

"We can't determine whether the trend toward narrowing surpluses has changed based on this one month's figure," said Mr. Masami Kogayu, vice finance minister, referring to the recent progress made by Japan in cutting its current account surplus.

Economists were divided on how long Japan's surpluses might continue to grow.

Most agree that Japan's slowing domestic economy appears likely to depress imports and reduce overseas travel by Japanese tourists for at least several months to come.

But some pointed out that exports might also slow down as the U.S. economy was unlikely to recover quickly from recession and protectionism was showing signs of strength in Europe.

Within the overall current account, the surplus in goods trade climbed to \$8.23 billion from \$3.98 billion a year earlier. The value of exports increased to \$23.42 billion from \$21.22 billion a year earlier, largely reflecting a stronger yen and steady demand for Japanese goods in Europe and Asia.

The yen's strength compared with last year has had a double impact on exports. First, a weak Japanese currency six months ago helped increase the volume of goods contracted for then, but only now being delivered.

Soviets seek \$250b in aid

WASHINGTON (R) — The Soviet Union appealed to the western world for as much as \$250 billion in aid over the next five years, a request that may say more about the dire state of the country's economy than about its ability to get the money.

The request, relayed by Soviet economic envoy Yevgeny Primakov, came during a meeting with International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Michel Camdessus last week. IMF sources said Friday.

Mr. Primakov told Mr. Camdessus that the Soviet Union will need between \$30 billion and \$50 billion in foreign finance for each of the next five to six years if its new economic reform programme is to succeed.

Few, if any, IMF sources believe that the country will get anywhere near that amount.

"Even if the western world provided only half of that, many developing countries would end up getting a lot less aid," said one source, who declined to be identified.

U.S. President George Bush sounded a bit more optimistic, although Soviet officials said that Mr. Primakov did not make any specific request for aid when he met the U.S. leader.

"I liked what I heard and we have some decisions ahead of us, and I'm not going to pre-judge those decisions," Mr. Bush said after a 45-minute meeting with Mr. Primakov.

Moscow is pressing the United States for \$1.5 billion in credits to buy U.S. grain, and is seeking most-favoured-nation trading status that would make it easier for the Soviet Union to sell its goods in the lucrative American market.

But the real prize that the Soviet Union is seeking is a multi-billion dollar western aid package in return for economic reforms.

White House Economic Adviser Michael Boskin said that Soviet Union has made some progress in developing a reform plan needed to attract western financial aid, but that it still has more to do.

"We want to make sure that they have a real reform plan that really has a prospect of getting them to a market economy," Mr. Boskin said in an interview with the U.S.-based Cable News Network.

Soviet economist Grigory Yavlinsky, who accompanied Mr. Primakov to Washington, is working with academics from Harvard University to try to come up with such a package.

So far, however, there is little sign that he has been able to translate his lofty ideal of developing a free market economy in the Soviet Union into a pragmatic programme.

IMF sources said Mr. Camdessus, emphasised the importance of the Soviet Union carrying out tough economic reforms when he met Mr. Primakov.

Diplomats said that radical steps may be needed to help right an economy that looks increasingly out of control.

Hyper-inflation looks increasingly likely and the central government is sinking deeper and deeper into the red because the republics are refusing to pass along tax revenues to it.

"The situation is much more worse than it was at the end of last year," one diplomat said.

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Bern edges closer to EC-EFTA accord

ZURICH (R) — Swiss negotiators say they have moved closer to agreeing terms for the creation of a 19-country European single market, an enterprise where their position has until now been a major stumbling block.

"In view of the progress made in the last two weeks I take a more positive view of the treaty than before," chief negotiator Franz Blankart told a news briefing.

He said the government also now felt more at ease with the planned treaty, which seeks to include the countries of the Euro-

pean Free Trade Association (EFTA) and the European Community (EC) into the European economic Area (EEA), a single market stretching from the Arctic to the Mediterranean.

The main hurdle for Switzerland had been the EC's refusal to grant it the right to opt out of subsequent EC rules, where EFTA will be excluded from decision-making.

Switzerland was so dissatisfied with the result and final declaration of a ministerial EC-EFTA meeting in mid-May that it reserved the right not to sign an

accord it saw as one-sided.

Mr. Blankart refused to be drawn on what had now made the terms more acceptable, but it seemed unlikely Switzerland had extracted further concessions from its negotiating partners.

He hinted that Switzerland had softened its position, comparing it to a carpet-seller who wanted to get the highest price. "We got a price for the carpet that is entirely appropriate," he said.

"Clearly, as part of a community of nations, Switzerland must show more will to compromise

than if it were a South Sea island," he said.

Other EFTA countries — Austria, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein — are less concerned about abdicating some decision-making powers to the EC because most are thinking in terms of joining the Community at a later date.

The government has seen an escape clause regarding future EC decisions as important in selling EEA to a population who must ratify membership by referendum.

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Arabic

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3 die in Pakistan arsenal blast

NEWSHERA, Pakistan (R) — An army arsenal blew up in northern Pakistan spewing out hundreds of missiles that killed at least eight people and injured 50, government officials said Saturday.

"I first thought it was an earthquake," Nowshera's assistant commissioner Fakhar Alam said of Friday's blast.

The officials said they feared the toll could go much higher. "A column of dust and smoke rose from the dump and the shelling started," school teacher Shahid Riaz said. "The missiles came whistling."

Officials were unsure of the number of casualties inside the ordnance depot outside the city. The explosion revived memories of an unexplained blast at a munitions dump near Islamabad three years ago.

Scores of children and women were missing after tens of thousands of people fled the city in panic, one official said.

"To locate them is one of our major problems, the others being defusing the large number of unexploded bombs scattered in the area and security of houses which many residents left unoccupied when they fled," he said.

Small explosions could still be heard from the depot in the early hours of Saturday. Fire engines were fighting fires there more than 10 hours after the main explosion.

One missile landed on Alam's house without causing any injury. But he said he saw a dead man with his head almost blown off. "It was terrible, terrible."

"There was continuous blasting for three hours after the first blast at 4:45 p.m. (114GMT)," Deputy Commissioner Liaquat Ali told reporters.

"During this period people fled their homes," he added, estimating half of the city's population of some 100,000 may have fled.

Several villages up to seven kilometres away were hit by the missiles, he said.

The huge dump covering several square kilometres employed about 200 people. It was not known how many were killed.

Seven of the people confirmed dead were civilians and one was a soldier from the large army garrison, Ali said.

Along the Grand Trunk Road linking Islamabad and the frontier city Peshawar, hundreds of unexploded rockets and shells lay scattered through streets and gar-

dens.

Some were stuck in the masonry of houses but failed to explode because they were not armed while in storage.

Troops refused to let anybody close to the dump. Large areas of the city were cordoned off.

Villager Jamila Bibi said she saw many wounded people as she fled from the explosions.

"On the way I saw the people lying on the ground with wounds in their heads, in their legs and in their chests," Bibi said after reaching relatives in Peshawar. "I saw men and women. It was like doomsday."

Bibi, who escaped her Badrashi home with her two young children, said she saw what appeared to be rockets smashing into village houses and the mosque near the dump.

"People were saying 'run, run, get out.' I left all my belongings and ran."

A similar arsenal blast at Ojri near Islamabad on April 10, 1988 killed more than 100 people and injured more than 1,000.

The cause of that explosion has never been officially explained.

Ojri was reported to have been used as a transit camp for weapons being sent to arm-

Angolans celebrate peace

LUANDA (R) — Cars booted across Luanda, cheers rang out, people hugged each other, impromptu street parties erupted and fountains of shots split the air to celebrate an end to three decades of conflict in Angola.

"I can hardly believe it. It is peace. We have peace at last," an excited Angolan waiter exclaimed as he popped a champagne cork.

President Jose Eduardo dos Santos left Lisbon early Saturday to return to Luanda after signing an historic Portuguese-mediated peace agreement with rebel UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi Friday.

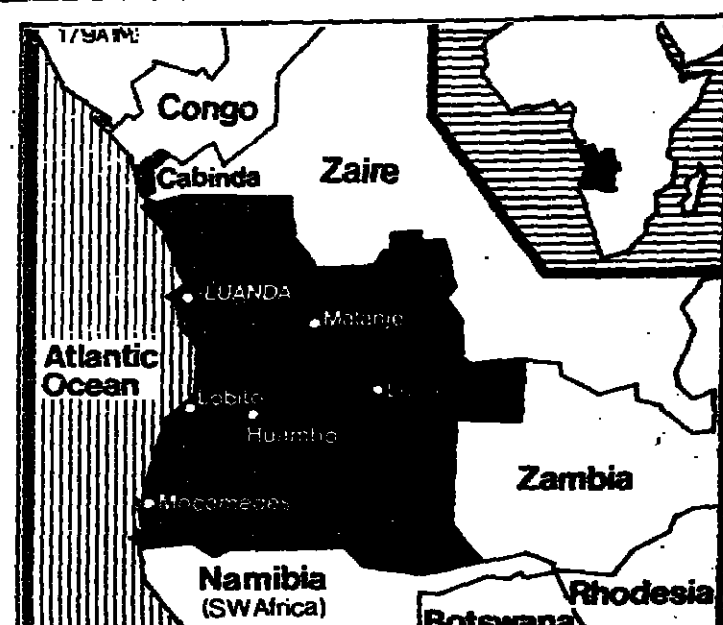
Dos Santos held a huge celebration party for thousands of Angolan exiles in Lisbon and told them: "We are closing a cycle of 30 years of war in Angola to enter a phase of tolerance."

He was to address a peace rally in Luanda's May 1st Square after his return and sources close to the presidency said he was expected to announce the release of all political prisoners.

The peace agreement ended 30 years of conflict stretching back to an uprising against Portuguese colonial rule in 1961 and the civil war which broke out after independence in 1975.

Reveries balanced champagne bottles and beer cans on their heads and waved their arms at an all-night musical extravaganza in Kinaxi Square as they danced to the music of dozens of local groups.

The diplomatic corps celebrated in a dimly-lit discotheque in the Hotel Panorama at a party given by the Foreign Ministry. Ambassadors strained to exchange conversation above the raucous blare of music.



The peace ceremony was broadcast live by satellite television from Lisbon.

"I thought the president and Savimbi would embrace," said security guard in front of one television set. "But I guess a handshake is enough."

Dos Santos and Savimbi signed the accord after just over a year of negotiations attended by U.S. and Soviet observers. Washington and Moscow had backed UNITA and the ruling MPLA government respectively.

"It is a triumph of good sense and reason," said Paulino Pinto Joao, president of the Angolan Democratic Nationalist Convergence, one of 26 new parties emerging to contest the country's first multi-party elections late next year.

The ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) formally ditched Marxism this year in favour of social democracy, a market economy and a multi-party state.

"We realise that a new, challenging era has begun," said Otto Essier, the resident United Nations representative in Angola.

As Dos Santos flew back to Luanda, the United Nations was organising a peace-keeping force of 600 observers to help to monitor the ceasefire and organise elections.

The next move will be a meeting, probably on June 7 in Luanda, of a joint political-military commission grouping both Angolan sides and U.S., Soviet and Portuguese observers who will monitor the truce and prepare for elections.

The government declared Saturday a national holiday. Churches will hold an ecumenical thanksgiving mass Sunday in the Cidade Stadium, the largest venue in the capital.

U.S. officials warn that, despite the pledges by Savimbi and Dos Santos to abide by the accord, rogue elements in the bush may continue to fight and law and order may be hard to maintain.

A major priority now is to attract urgent foreign aid to rebuild an infrastructure and economy — potentially rich in oil, diamonds and agriculture — ruined by war. Nearly a quarter of the country's 10 million people face famine.

Protesters burn effigy of De Klerk

CAPE TOWN (AP) — African National Congress (ANC) protesters burned an effigy of President F.W. de Klerk at a demonstration Friday against white rule hours before he made a conciliatory plea for peace.

Without referring specifically to blacks, De Klerk said on national television that many South Africans "do not feel free. They feel dominated, disadvantaged and deprived of rights."

"The harsh reality remains that millions of our citizens do not enjoy the rights citizenship usually brings with it," De Klerk said in a speech marking the 30th anniversary of South Africa's full independence from Britain.

The president repeated his call for peace talks involving all political parties and an end to the violence in black townships.

About 1,000 activists took part in the "bury the racist republic" march on parliament, which was led by ANC leader Walter Sisulu and South African Communist Party head Joe Slovo.

The march — one of several around the country — was held to oppose the celebration of Republic Day, the 30th anniversary of South Africa's full independence from British rule.

With dozens of police watch-

De Klerk

ing, Sisulu and Slovo helped hoist aloft the empty coffin draped with the South African flag and adorned with faces of De Klerk and past South African leaders.

Resounding cheers broke out as young ANC supporters lit the coffin and flag and set it to rest on the street just outside the gates of parliament.

Youths danced around the burning coffin and kicked at it until it was nothing more than ashes. Police did not take action.

Marchers then moved to a public square, where a cardboard effigy of De Klerk with a South African flag wrapped around its neck was burned to cinders.

"It is appropriate that (today) should be the burial day of the so-called Republic of South Africa," Sisulu said.

Slovo warned that black-white peace negotiations would go nowhere until the government releases all inmates the ANC considers to be political prisoners, including about 100 who are on a hunger strike to demand their freedom.

"If any one of these hunger strikers dies, him will die the peace process in this country," Slovo said. Many have been fasting since the beginning of May and face permanent health dam-

Cyclone warning stops Bangladesh relief work

DHAKA (R) — The U.S. and British forces suspended relief operations in Bangladesh Saturday in the face of an approaching fresh cyclone, a U.S. task force spokesman said.

Helicopters and vessels had been sent to safe havens, he added.

The storm raging in the Bay of Bengal about 400 miles southwest of Chittagong could strike the coast at midnight, the Dhaka Meteorological Office said.

It was expected to cause 44 mph (70 kph) winds and a three-metre tidal wave, it said.

The U.S. task force spokesman said the threat had forced U.S. and British Marines to suspend operations in remote islands and coastal areas battered by a cyclone on April 29.

All five U.S. Blackhawk helicopters and three British Sea King helicopters — one Sea King downed in the sea and sank on Saturday but all five crew were saved — had been flown to Dhaka for safety, he said.

Commander of the U.S. task force, Major-General Henry Stackpole, said he had ordered the U.S. ship St. Louis to recover the sunken helicopter before the storm hit.

Port authorities had been asked to hoist danger signals and vessels in the Bay of Bengal had been warned, an official said.

Stackpole said both the St. Louis and the British ship Port Grange would move to safe zones before the cyclone struck.

The authorities said the cyclone warning had caused panic across the entire coastal area.

"We are not sure if we are going to be hit again by the cyclone, but everybody seems panicked," said Mokammel Haq, the chief relief coordinator in Chittagong.

"We have however asked everybody to get to cyclone shelters," he said.

He said the tidal surge coming with the storm would contaminate desalinated ponds prepared by U.S. Marines.

Nearly 6,700 marines, who came in eight ships with helicopters and amphibious craft, have left for home after two weeks of operation during which they ferried nearly 3,000 tonnes of food and other relief supplies to affected areas.

China brings back Zhao allies

PEKING (R) — China confirmed Saturday that three fallen reformers, victims of a purge by Communist hardliners in 1989, had been rehabilitated and given vice ministerial posts.

All three were allies of ex-Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang, who was ousted in a bitter power struggle and accused of encouraging unrest crushed by the army on June 4, 1989.

Most prominent of the three is Hu Qili, 62, once part of the Communist Party's inner circle of power as a member of the ruling politburo's standing committee. He was named vice minister of machine building and electronics industry, according to the official

Pope begins Polish visit

KOSZALIN, Poland (R) — Pope John Paul spoke of his joy at the fall of communism in Eastern Europe Saturday as he began his first visit to Poland since the Solidarity union led his homeland to freedom.

"I rejoice in the remarkable good which happened and is still happening in my fatherland," the Polish-born pontiff said as he arrived at Koszalin, a northwestern city 450 kilometres from Warsaw.

"This is an enormous historical process of a multifold nature. The fall of totalitarianism," the 71-year-old Pope said after kissing the tarmac as he stepped onto Polish soil.

The Pope was welcomed amid pouring rain, wind and cold by President Lech Walesa, the former shipyard electrician and devout Roman Catholic who led Solidarity in its 10-year struggle to topple Communist rule.

"You were and are the symbol of the spirit of this nation. Of a nation which never accepted a system of enslavement," Walesa told the Pope in a welcoming speech.

He asked the pontiff to continue to help Poles with his wisdom in their difficult task of building a free country and a free market economy.

The Pope will spend nine days on his fourth pilgrimage to Poland, an overwhelmingly Catholic nation of 38 million where he is widely revered for his moral authority.

He will deliver dozens of speeches at 42 meetings and open-air masses in 12 towns and cities across the country.

The Pope told Walesa, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1983 for his role in Solidarity's peaceful struggle against communism, that he spoke with an authentic voice for a new, sovereign Poland.

Soviet pilot ignored order to destroy KAL jet — KGB

MOSCOW (AP) — More than 13 years after a South Korean plane strayed into Soviet airspace, the KGB revealed that a Soviet pilot ignored commands to destroy the aircraft and fired a warning shot instead, TASS has reported.

The incident occurred in 1978, pressaging the more famous case of Korean Airlines (KAL) Flight 007 five years later. A Soviet interceptor shot down the Jumbo passenger jet, killing all 269 on board.

In 1978, pilot Alexander Bosov was ordered to "destroy the violator" but instead fired a warning shot that damaged the wing of the Korean Airlines 707, forcing it to land on a frozen lake, the Soviet News Agency said. Two people were killed.

TASS said its report was based on information from KGB chief Vladimir Kryuchkov, who provided Soviet journalists with secret documents about the incident.

The Korean Airlines Boeing 707 had more than 100 passengers on board.

It left Paris and headed for Alaska, Seoul, Tokyo and Osaka but lost course over the Barents Sea in the Arctic and strayed over Karelia in northwestern Soviet Union on April 20, 1978.

A Soviet Air Force fighter

Colombian rebel group lays down arms

MEDELLIN (AP) — A fourth band of guerrillas ended their insurgency Friday, laying down their weapons at a ceremony in southwestern Colombia.

The 130-member Quintin Lame, after seven years of fighting, became the fourth leftist rebel group to make peace with the government during the past 14 months.

In exchange for renouncing revolution, the group will be allowed to send a delegate to a National Assembly now writing a new constitution.

"We have not surrendered. On the contrary, we have achieved a great victory," said Quintin Lame leader Gildardo Fernandez.

He was quoted Friday in Bogota's El Espectador newspaper.

He said his groups had "come out from the shade, gained respect and even obtained representation in the Constitutional Assembly."

The Quintin Lame started in the mid 1980s as a defence force to protect land against encroaching white settlers.

Colombia has around 200,000 Indians out of a total population of 30 million.

The group laid down around 800 pounds (360 kilograms) of weapons at a ceremony in the southwestern Cauca province, a presidential spokesman said, asking to remain anonymous.

Attending the ceremony were government officials, assembly delegates and two foreign observers from the World Council of Indigenous Peoples.

The weapons will be melted down and made into a statue of Manuel Quintin Lame, who fought for the rights of Colombian tribesmen in the early 1900s.

The Quintin Lame started in the mid 1980s as a defence force to protect land against encroaching white settlers.

The Quintin Lame's weapons handover is the latest in a series of events which are stirring hopes for national reconciliation in Colombia.

On Monday, government representatives will begin formal peace talks with two other leftist rebel groups in Caracas, Venezuela.

The negotiations will seek to end a 30-year insurgency by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and the National Liberation Army.

Afro-Arab club is split on South Africa sanctions

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — Since its birth 27 years ago, the often-divided Organisation of African Unity (OAU) has always agreed on one thing: opposition to white supremacy in South Africa.

But as South African President F.W. de Klerk promises to dismantle apartheid, the OAU's 51 African and Arab member nations have split over whether to reward South Africa with expanded trade ties.

The organisation is so divided that OAU Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim announced Friday the issue would have to be resolved at the summit. Thirty-five heads of state are expected at the four-day meeting, which starts Monday.

Earlier, OAU Director Ibrahim Dagash had announced that a council drawing up the summit agenda "unanimously resolved that in the interim, sanctions against South Africa be maintained until all apartheid laws are dismantled."

Dagash's statement Wednesday came after ministers were presented with a report that said black Africa's trade with South Africa is growing "in leaps and bounds" and has almost reached \$4 billion a year.

Yet the majority insist that continued international economic pressures are vital to keep De Klerk on the road to reform.

Others like powerful oil-rich Nigeria contend they should reward De Klerk's efforts to transform South Africa into a non-racial democratic state.

De Klerk has proceeded to dismantle some apartheid laws, but he has not agreed to one-person-one vote democracy.

Salim says restrictions continue on South Africa returning from exile and that the government has released only about 300 of its 3,000 political prisoners. De Klerk's government denies 3,000 people remain detained for political offences.

Sahlin, a Tanzanian, supported hardliners. He told a news conference, "We recognise that change is taking place. But the system of apartheid is still very much in place."

In a veiled reference to the 12-nation European Community's recent move to ease the economic blockade, Salim declared it wrong to prematurely lift sanctions. He said African countries should lead the campaign of pressure.

"We are keen to ensure that whatever decisions are taken here on the matter are applied by the same Africans who took the decision," he said.

Just before he spoke, a leader of South Africa's militant anti-

Column

Zambian president son jailed

LUSAKA, Zambia (AP) — Judge has ordered the young son of President Kenneth Kaunda to go to jail pending trial on murder charges, lawyers there said.

There was no word Saturday whether he was allowed to reside in state house, his father's official residence, after the high court ruling. The venue of Kaunda's custody was to be decided.

Lusaka police commissioner Hobson Simasiku, said defence attorney Sebastian Zulu. "I take him directly to prison because he is being lynched," Zulu told Associated Press.

On Friday Judge Claver Musum told a manslaughter charge against Kaunda to murder after hearing evidence the slaying of a 20-year-old woman in September 1985. Pleading innocent, Kaunda claimed he shot Thabith Mwila in self-defence when an mob attacked his car in suburban Lusaka. Kaunda conducted his own defence and said he recall five witnesses who appeared at previous hearings in Zambia, a murder charge carries no provision for bail.

U.S. police find stolen Picasso

NEW YORK (R) — Police recovered a Picasso painting worth about \$1 million that had been stolen several years from the home of a Manhattan art collector and secretly replaced with a forgery, authorities said.

The painting, a 1943 oil titled, Head of Woman with Golden Earrings, had belonged to the late Emily McFadden Staempfli, a socialite from Philadelphia who died in January 1984.

Police Inspector Charles Prestia said the Picasso work and another by the Belgian painter Rene Magritte, had been secretly stolen from one of three Manhattan homes the McFadden-Staempfli resided between 1980 and 1985. The paintings were replaced with forgeries, which were not revealed to be fakes until last year when art experts began examining the woman's estate.

Prestia said the Picasso was worth about one million, while the Magritte painting, a 1954 work titled, S. Famille, was appraised at between \$1.5 million and \$1.7 million. The Magritte painting had not been recovered, he said.

Gone With The Wind sequel to appear at book fair

NEW YORK (R) — A sequel to the classic novel "Gone With The Wind" is set to be one of the star attractions at the English-speaking world's largest book fair this weekend. Scarle, a sequel to Margaret Mitchell's popular U.S. civil war love story, will be among the thousands of new books being touted at the American Booksellers Association annual convention in New York.

Warner Books, which in 1984 bought the rights to publish a sequel and had it written by novelist Alexandra Ripley, says it is not revealing details of the plot — including whether Rhett Butler and Scarlett O'Hara reunite.

Mitchell wrote only "Gone With The Wind" in her lifetime and spent the years after its publication answering fan mail. Scarle is due to be published in September.

Tabloid waged vendetta against MPH

LONDON (R) — Britain's press watchdog has said Friday tabloid journalists waged a vendetta against a leading opposition Labour politician because of a campaign to ban pictures of naked women in newspaper.

The Press Complaints Commission upheld charges by MP Claire Short that two stories in the Sunday News Of The World raised "inescapable suspicion" was waging a vendetta against her.

The News Of The World, owned by media baron Rupert Murdoch's News International, publishes pictures of women known as "page-three girls," usually shown nude to the waist.

Short introduced a bill in parliament in 1986 to stop newspapers printing the pictures. The bill failed. Short, who represents Birmingham constituency in the Midlands, central England, accused the paper of planning a smear story about her and other members of the disbande Westminster Serious Crime Squad had tried to plant damaging stories about her. Police are investigating the allegations.

مكتبة الأصل